Hafa Adai!

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DPW tells IPI to take down tower crane. PAGE 2

117 evacuate to shelters during Typhoon Bolaven. PAGE 3

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AS ROTA EXPECTED TO BEAR BRUNT OF BOLAVEN

Hocog: We are as prepared as can be

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite having just gone through Typhoon Mawar, the island of Rota is expected to bear the brunt of Typhoon Bolaven, which is forecasted to pass just north of Rota.

Typhoon Bolaven, previously known as Tropical Storm Bolaven, quickly intensified as it made its way to the Marianas throughout yesterday before being upgraded to a Category 1 typhoon at

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RELATED NEWS

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- FEMA urges residents to prepare for heavy rain and flash flooding. **PAGE 3**

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Saipan Mayor's Office deployed personnel to clear as much fallen debris as they can before Typhoon Bolaven made its closest approach yesterday afternoon.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The U.S Coast Guard Forces Micronesia Marine Safety Detachment Saipan deployed personnel to secure the *Jambalaya* to the pier using extra lines due to possible damage from Typhoon Bolaven.

'CUC is storm ready'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

"We are storm ready and as ready as we can be."

Thus, stated Commonwealth Utilities Corp. acting executive director Betty G. Terlaje during an online news briefing yesterday afternoon.

Terlaje

Speaking while at the Emergency Operations Center on Capital Hill, Terlaje said they have done all protocols to get themselves ready for the onslaught of Typhoon Bolaven. She said they've got the crew, the materials, and equipment on Rota.

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Concepcion

Over 1,000 tourists stranded on Saipan

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority has reported that over 1,000 tourists remain on Saipan as typhoon Bolaven approaches the Marianas.

In an interview with MVA managing director Chris Concepcion, in response to the passage of Tyhoon Bolaven, the tourism industry is on high

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'Saipan Mayor's Office HR Division takes all policies extremely seriously'

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Human Resources director Juanette Sablan of the Saipan Mayor's Office has clarified the actions she took in response to the complaint of sexual harassment filed by a former employee, saying she needed to respond to the accusations against her and her role in the situation.

Sablan's response, which

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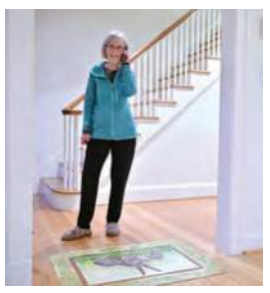
INSIDE



BUSINESS

Claudia Goldin, a Harvard University professor, was awarded the Nobel economics prize on Monday.

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WORLD

Israeli warplanes pounded downtown Gaza City, home to Hamas' centers of government, with relentless bombardments into early Tuesday.

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LIFE & STYLE

You could say Joe Cristalli tweeted his role as an executive producer and co-showrunner on the new " Frasier " sitcom into existence.

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FERDIE DE LA TORRE
Tower crane No. 5 is seen atop the unfinished Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's casino/resort building in Garapan in this file photo taken last May 24 when Typhoon Mawar was approaching the Marianas.

Local

DPW tells IPI to take down tower crane

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Works has issued a new notice to Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC to take down its tower crane atop the unfinished casino resort project in Garapan.

In response to *Saipan Tribune*'s inquiry, DPW Secretary Ray N. Yumul disclosed that they issued a notice for the removal of the crane to IPI for safety reasons due to the approaching Typhoon Bolaven and that acting Building Safety officer Yvonne Tenorio signed the notice.

"No response as far as I know. We did give a short grace period for them to reply," Yumul said. He did not elaborate.

Last May, DPW closed Hibiscus Street for safety reasons because of IPI's tower crane No. 5.

The DPW secretary then stated that he was consulting with the Office of the Attorney General on how to resolve the issue.

He said the crane, which looms over Hibiscus Street between the IPI casino/resort building and Joeten Hafa Adai, poses an imminent threat to public safety since it has not been used since December 2020.

IPI reportedly sent experts to do maintenance on the crane to make it safe even with the typhoon.

House bill eyes creating fund, council for opioid settlement funds

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives has unanimously passed a bill that seeks to establish a fund from opioid settlement monies and a council to oversee funding for substance abuse abatement programs.

With all 19 House members present at a session on Thursday voting "yes," House Bill 23-80 passed the House and now goes to the Senate for action.

Camacho

Vice speaker Rep. Joel C. Camacho (Ind-Saipan) introduced the legislation that same day. Several House members co-sponsored the legislation.

Camacho stated in the bill that the CNMI anticipates receiving substantial payments from settlement of litigation against the manufacturers and distributors of prescription opioid analgesics, pharmacies dispensing prescription opioid analgesics, and related parties for alleged contributions to high rates of drug overdoses and other drug-related harms.

He said this bill establishes a dedicated fund for substance abuse disorder abatement. He said this bill also creates a council to handle the award of monies to agencies that engage in substance abuse disorder abatement.

Under the bill, the Opioid Litigation Proceeds Fund is established in the Commonwealth treasury. The Fund shall operate as a dedicated fund to be administered by the Department of Finance.

Monies in the Fund shall not revert to the general fund of the Commonwealth treasury.

Monies in the Fund shall be spent only for substance abuse disorder abatement purposes, upon the approval of the Opioid Proceeds Council and through the HOPE Recovery Center, the Substance Abuse Treatment and Recovery Clinic under the Community Guidance Center, the Drug Court Division of the CNMI Judiciary, or any non-profit that engages in substance abuse prevention.

The council shall be composed of three voting members. The Council may approve nonvoting members as needed.

The council voting members are the chief executive officer of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. or designee, attorney general or designee, and the governor or designee.

The council shall employ an executive director and staff to support the meetings and functions of the council and direct day-to-day activities.

117 evacuate to shelters during Typhoon Bolaven

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With shelters in the CNMI activated since 6pm on Monday, a total of 117 residents have already made their way there to seek shelter as Typhoon Bolaven made its way through the CNMI.

Education interim commissioner Donna M. Flores said that, as of 4:30pm yesterday, the CNMI's shelter numbers were as follows:

- Marianas High School—23
- Koblerville Elementary School—15
- Kagman High School—41
- Saipan Aging Center (Man'amko)—35
- Tinian Elementary School—1
- Rota Aging Center (Man'amko)—2

Since the time of activation, no issues or concerns were reported, Flores said.

A 71-year-old woman, who is a resident of Chalan Lau Lau, sought shelter with three other family members at MHS as soon as it was activated. She was seen outside the building yesterday morning, watching the wind blow through the trees.

She said she came over for shelter in the fully concrete building because her home is made of tin and wood and she feared for their safety. She said she gathered her important documents and other belongings but could not bring everything with them to the shelter.

When asked how she felt as the typhoon approaches, she said she felt safe at the shelter, but her mind still strays back to thoughts of her home—and whether or not it'll be there when the typhoon has passed.

In the past, she said, her family would not seek shelter, but since the destruction of Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018, she and her family have been evacuating to shelters every time a storm approaches the Marianas. The last time her family sought shelter at MHS was during Typhoon Mawar in May.

Families and individuals ranging from young children to the elderly were seen at the shelter.

Shelter manager and MHS vice principal Melanie Rdiall said that 17 residents have evacuated to MHS once it was activated Monday night. Three more evacuated yesterday morning and everything has gone smoothly so far.

At the time of Saipan Tribune's visit to the shelter yesterday morning, two Department of Public Safety officers came by to check on the shelter and ask how everything was going. Rdiall said DPS checked on them twice earlier in the morning, as well as Alcoholic Beverage & Tobacco Control officers.

LEIGH GASES

The Marianas High School cafeteria is one school facility currently used as a shelter in the CNMI with 23 occupants.

LEIGH GASES

Shelter manager MHS vice principal Melania Rdiall expects more evacuees later in the day as Typhoon Bolaven approaches the CNMI.

'NI residents doing well'

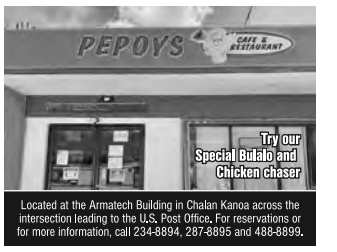
By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Islands Mayor Valentino Taisacan said he's contacted Northern Islands residents this morning and that they are all doing well and have prepared for the approach of Typhoon Bolaven.

"I've been in constant communication with the residents of Agrigan since last week in preparation for the storm. I've advised them to secure all loose objects and clear the surrounding area next to their shelter. Although the track of the storm is still uncertain, I advised them to remain in contact with CNMI Emergency Operations Center (EOC), get their weather updates as presented to them and monitor the storms tracking. In case they had taken down their radio antenna, they have a satellite phone that they could use to get hourly updates from EOC. I ask all the residents of CNMI to remain vigilant and use this time to secure their homes and businesses."

LEIGH GASES

Northern Islands Mayor Valentino Taisacan is shown in this file photo.



Located at the Armatech Building in Chalan Kanoa across the intersection leading to the U.S. Post Office. For reservations or for more information, call 234-8894, 287-8895 and 488-8899.

FEMA urges residents to prepare for heavy rain and flash flooding

As Typhoon Bolaven passes through the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federal Emergency Management Agency strongly urges residents and visitors to prepare now for heavy rain and flash flooding.

- Depending on where you are, and the impact and the warning time of flooding, go to the safe location that you previously identified.
- If told to evacuate, do so immediately
- If you are in potentially affected areas, you should be familiar with evacuation routes, have a family emergency communications plan, keep a battery-powered radio handy and have plans for your family members and pets. For people with disabilities, you may need to take additional steps to plan for both your needs and that of your service animal.
- Listen to authorities for information and instructions. Return home only when authorities say it is safe.
- Do not walk, swim or drive through floodwaters.
- Stay off bridges over fast-moving water.
- If your vehicle is trapped in rapidly moving water, then stay inside. If water is rising inside the vehicle, then seek refuge on the roof.
- If trapped in a building, then go to its highest level. Do not climb into a closed attic. You may become trapped by rising floodwater. Go on the roof only if necessary. Once there, signal for help.
- Snakes and other animals may be in your house. Wear heavy gloves and boots during clean up.
- Do not touch electrical equipment if it is wet or if you are standing in water. If it is safe to do so, turn off the electricity to prevent electric shock.
- Use a generator or other gasoline-powered machinery ONLY outdoors and away from windows.

Please make sure you have multiple ways to receive alerts. Download the free FEMA App to sign up for weather and emergency alerts in up to five locations.

Visit www.ready.gov/floods for more information to prepare for heavy rain and flash flooding.

For more information on the Commonwealth's disaster recovery, please visit our website.

Follow FEMA at Twitter and Facebook. ***(PR)***

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MAYOR

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was also published in the local newspapers last Friday, stated that she believes it's imperative to address the allegations openly and transparently to set the record straight.

This comes soon after former grant writer Maryann Borja-Arriola complained of sexual harassment at the Saipan Mayor's Office, specifically against Saipan Mayor Ramon "RB" Camacho, and then resigned from her job last Sept. 27, 2023.

"In recent days, there have been allegations and discussions regarding my role as the HR director for the Saipan Mayor's Office in connection with accusations of alleged sexual harassment. I believe it is imperative to address these allegations openly and transparently to set the record straight," Sablan stated.

She recounts that Arriola first approached her on Sept. 14 with verbal accusations of "sexual harassment" against the mayor and other individuals.

"Ms. Arriola herself acknowledged that some of these interactions were, in her own words, mere jokes and that she did not take them seriously. It is worth noting that she also admitted to engaging in similar banter. Nevertheless, I treated her complaint with the utmost seriousness, in line with our commitment to ensuring a safe and harassment-free workplace," Sablan said.

Immediately after, she said, she spoke to Camacho, posted the "Non-Tolerance of Sexual Harassment" Policy & Procedure#1026-105 on their bulletin boards, and talked with all their staff to underscore the gravity of the policy. She said she also included information from the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission on "What is employment discrimination?" and the NMIAC Subpart C-Alcohol and Drug Free Workplace Policy.

"Without delay, I scheduled a meeting for the very next day, Sept. 15, 2023, between Ms. Arriola, myself, the chief of staff, and the mayor to address the matter promptly. This meeting took place less than 24 hours from the time Ms. Arriola came to my office with her verbal complaint."

After that meeting, "Ms. Arriola expressed her appreciation for my responsiveness. She even expressed that she was happy and content that this problem is over and resolved. She further stated that we will not discuss this matter anymore. In fact, at the end of the meeting she even extended her hand and shook hands with the mayor, signifying their mutual agreement that this matter had been resolved and signaling the intent to move forward and work collaboratively together."

Sablan said they all agreed that this matter will no longer be discussed after the meeting.

"As further assurance, I even inquired about her well-being just before we left the meeting."

Sablan claims Arriola explicitly stated, "Let's put this matter to rest. I'm satisfied with my discussion with the mayor…", making Sablan believe the matter was resolved.

Arriola then submitted her written complaint two weeks later, but did not mention the meeting and statements of resolution made, Sablan said.

"I was completely stunned by this and left with so many unanswered questions in my mind," said Sablan.

She claims to have conducted a thorough investigation, interviewing all employees, both male and female, and questioning if they have ever felt threatened, retaliated against, sexually harassed, or intimidated while working at the Saipan Mayor's Office.

"The feedback I received was clear: our staff do not share Ms. Arriola's sentiments, with some even suggesting that her claims appear unfounded."

Sablan said that she wants to emphasize that the HR Division within the Saipan Mayor's Office takes all policies, including the Sexual Harassment Policy, extremely seriously.

In her resignation letter, Arriola stated that the decision to resign is prompted by what she describes as an "unsafe" work environment where sexual harassment "has become a routine and relentless problem."

She said she has verbally reported and submitted a formal written complaint about the unwanted sexual harassment she has experienced but has "not received any response to my grievances, but experienced retaliation."

Arriola said she had been subjected to unwanted advances, vulgar jokes, and inappropriate comments on numerous occasions while working at the Office of the Mayor.

When asked about the matter, Camacho said that, as the situation is currently undergoing investigation, and at to the advice of his legal counsel, he is unable to further comment about it. "I will say that I didn't do anything wrong," he said.

CUC

From page 1

"We can get more equipment in as well as for Saipan and Tinian," she added.

CUC is prepared for this disaster and its line crew will hit the ground first by clearing all roadways for emergency vehicles and frontliners to go out and do what they need to do immediately following the storm, added Terlaje.

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management special assistant Franklin Babauta joined Terlaje in the briefing.

Terlaje said CUC has its priorities on how to restore electric power and that will be followed accordingly to make sure that the restoration efforts are focused on priority areas: the hospital, clinics, water wells, shelters, and emergency facilities.

For Rota's power situation prior to the storm, Terlaje said they did deploy their electrical engineers to the island to work with the engineering technician and mechanic from Rota CUC. Rota has reportedly been experiencing power outages for a couple of weeks prior to Bolaven's approach.

Terlaje said the Rota Resort's generators that will used as a backup for power supply have some items that need repairs. However, she said, the biggest issue was that the underground cable appeared to have been tampered with so it needed further investigation by the line crew.

"We were not able to get it up before the storm. The good news is that just late yesterday they were able to affirm that the cable [had not been] cut," she said.

If it had been cut, that would have been a big blow to the CUC plan, Terlaje said, adding that it will take time to run the tests through the cable so that's still an immediate backup solution.

Terlaje said the cut did not affect the cable inside. She said they don't know for sure what caused the cut, but perhaps somebody tried to steal copper wires inside or whatever it was they're trying to do. She said the good news is it was confirmed that the cable is still intact.

Another piece of good news, Terlaje said, is that the parts that were needed for the second unit at Rota Resort arrived on Rota Monday.

Unfortunately, she said, the mechanic, who was supposed to fly in that day (Tuesday), could not make it due to the storm and the flight cancellation. Terlaje said the mechanic is on standby to fly out on the first flight to Rota.

Once the repair work is done, which would take maybe a day or two, the Caterpillar power engine on Rota will be back and will be backed up, she said

Terlaje said the one power engine unit on Rota is running well and if that unit goes down, it will likely be on the distribution side, caused by strong winds and rains.

As for the water service interruption issue on Saipan, she said this was to allow water crew able to repair a leaked pipeline. "With small leaks, we tried not to turn the water off, but when they're big, we turn the water off so they could go in and repair it without the water gushing out. It makes it easier for them to do what they need to do," Terlaje said.

She said that repair is necessary to be done so that the water tank doesn't empty out.

Terlaje said she has not gotten any update yet on the status of the pipeline repair, but they have been on it since Tuesday morning.

As for the power outages Monday night in Koblerville and Chalan Kanoa, Terlaje said it was not storm-related, but she can see the concern since Bolaven is coming in.

She said one of the generators in CUC's main power plant in Lower Base had a minor issue so they needed to repair that so that it doesn't affect the engine in the longer term.

Terlaje said they were advised that they were going to take out Kiya 2 power grid, which covers Chalan Kanoa and Koblerville and southern As Lito area.

She said Kiya 2 went down for a couple of hours, and it did try to come back within an hour, but the repair work showed that it needed additional repair. "So, they took it back down, finished the repairs and then came back up within two hours. So that was the reason for that," she said.

However, Terlaje said they were going to complete some of the repairs at the power plant yesterday to be able to get additional megawatts of power capacity. She said it is needed so that should the engines experience something like this through the storm, they are ready to power up the Power Plant 4 or 2.

Palacios said the latest word from the National Weather Service states that the storm is now a typhoon as Bolaven's maximum sustained winds have increased to 80 miles per hour. Palacios said based on the weather radar in Guam, Typhoon Bolaven is now tracking west northwest. He said Rota has experienced a near miss, but is not a direct hit.

The governor said they talked with Rota Mayor Aubry Hocog and advised her earlier that things have changed a little bit.

He said Hocog will be advising residents to take precautionary measures as the typhoon is going to be passing through the Marianas close to Rota

"We get through this first. Be safe and then we're prepared to do the assessments on all three islands to see where the impacts are—which island got the most impact," Palacios said.

Babauta said their partners from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and U.S. Department of Defense are here to assist.

Babauta said they are leaning toward going to Rota immediately and assess its situation, and then they will start reinforcing what they need to reinforce at the island.

HOCOG

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around 1pm.

According to forecasts from the National Weather Service in Guam, Bolaven continued to shift west throughout yesterday, and the closest point of approach was seen just a few miles north of Rota starting at around 5pm.

After learning that Rota would be bearing the brunt of the typhoon, the Municipality of Rota did its best to brace itself for the worst, said Rota Mayor Aubry Hocog.

"We are as prepared as we can be. I'm anxious because our count at the shelter is very low. I just hope that our people are safe wherever they are. Power is out and there is a boil-water notice [in effect]," she said.

Fortunately, Rota will not experience a direct hit, said Gov. Arnold I. Palacios at a separate news briefing, but it will still experience harsher weather conditions compared to the rest of the CNMI given that Bolaven will miss Rota by just a few miles.

"As of 12pm yesterday, we learned that Typhoon Bolaven, based on its west-northwest track, was going to pass near Rota. Rota, fortunately, will not suffer a direct hit but they will be experiencing a near-miss. We have been informed that they are prepared as can be," he said.

Since learning of Bolaven's change in course and with Rota expected to experience the worst of the storm, the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management has shifted its focus to preparing to coordinate recovery efforts for Rota, said HSEM special assistant Franklin Babauta.

"We have our partner here from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and partners from the U.S. Department of Defense and we are preparing to leave for Rota when it's safe to do so," he said.

As part of recovery efforts, Babauta shared that power crews will be deployed to Rota once it's safe to do so.

Other resources, like food and water, will also be sent to Rota once it is safe to do so with the help of FEMA and DOD partners.

Tinian Mayor Edwin Aldan said in a statement that, as of 6pm yesterday, Tinian was experiencing strong gusts of winds that would come and go.

"I think we are at the peak of the storm. Fortunately, we are okay and we have been preparing for Bolaven," he said.

OVER

From page 1

alert, anticipating the storm to intensify into a typhoon as it makes its closest point of approach," he said.

Concepcion said the MVA has been in constant communication with the Hotel Association of the NMI and has determined that over 1,000 tourist are on island as Bolaven approaches the island.

"We've been in close communication with HANMI, we have an estimated 1,551 tourists that are on the ground," he said.

Although most flights to and from Saipan have been suspended, there is no official word on the closure of the Francisco C, Ada-Saipan International Airport. Concepcion said MVA will continue to monitor this.

"We are also closely monitoring airline activity. We are on standby, waiting for word from airline partners on their plans to either continue with flights as scheduled or to modify their schedule taking into account the safety procedures they need to undergo," he said.

Concepcion said that this isn't the first storm the CNMI and the tourism industry has experienced. Rest assured, MVA and industry stakeholders are working together to ensure that tourists who are stranded are taken care of and are provided the necessary updates in regards to the typhoon.

"Usually in this type of situation, when flights are cancelled and tourists are forced to stay here longer than anticipated, the transactions are usually primarily between customer and airline or customer and hotel. MVA is here to provide information to HANMI and other MVA partners. We keep them informed and we work with these partners on offering distress rates to these customers, if not, complimentary rooms," he said.

"This is not our first rodeo. We've been through other typhoons and flight cancellations since the tourism industry started. So, it's nothing new but we're always on alert and trying to ensure the tourism industry is informed and that they are kept in the loop," Concepcion added.

Based on forecasts from the National Weather Service based on Guam, Saipan has been spared from the brunt of the storm but Rota will be experiencing a near hit.

Palacios declares Typhoon Condition I for CNMI

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, in consultation with the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management Office and the National Weather Service Weather Forecast Office, declared Typhoon Condition I for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota effective 5am yesterday, Oct. 10.

Typhoon Condition 1 means that typhoon force winds of 74 mph or more are expected, with damaging storm force winds of 39 mph arriving within 12 hours. The National Weather Service-Guam has estimated that residents of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota will begin seeing damaging winds Tuesday afternoon.

The time of passage, according to NWS, is estimated to be on Tuesday evening into Wednesday morning. Residents of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota were asked to prepare for Category 2 Typhoon, which will bring 96-110 mph winds.

The following updates incorporates the latest information from the different emergency management resources, programs, and activities:

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios during yesterday morning's CNMI Multi-Agency Coordination Team at the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Office on Capital Hill.

Shelter updates

Shelters have been activated and were opened on Oct. 9, 6pm (Rota shelter opened 7am on Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2023).

■ Residents who need shelter assistance are asked to use the shelters closest to their homes.

■ Residents are expected to bring their own bedding, food, and drinks in the shelter.

■ No pets are permitted in the shelter unless the pet is a certified service animal.

■ An ID should be presented upon entry.

Activated shelters

1. Marianas High School (Cafeteria)
2. Koblerville Elementary School (Cafeteria)
3. Kagman High School (Cafeteria)
4. Tinian: Tinian Elementary School (Cafeteria)
5. Rota: Sinapalo Office on Aging

For Saipan, the Office on Aging is open to accommodate persons with disabilities and those with medical needs. Services under these categories include individuals who are wheelchair bound, who need oxygen, and for those with ailments that do not need to be admitted at the hospital.

For Rota, the Office on Aging in Sinapalo is the designated shelter. For inquiries, please call Valerie Q. Apatang at (670) 532-2656.

For individuals requiring medical attention, the Rota Health Center is open. Secondary, alternate shelters have been identified and will be announced with additional details when appropriate.

Transportation to shelters

Transport services to typhoon shelters for the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota can be accessed by contacting the following telephone numbers:

Saipan:

1. EOC State Warning Point: (670) 237-8000

Tinian:

1. Public School System (PSS) Tinian Elementary School Tinian: (670) 783-8962 (Primary) or (670) 433-9250 (Secondary)
2. Tinian Municipality Operations Center: (670) 433-1803 (Primary) or (670) 433-1800 (Secondary)

Rota:

1. Rota Mayor's Office: (670) 532-9451/2 (Primary Number)

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

Health center hours during storm

Upon declaration of TYPHOON CONDITION II or I, Rota Health Center and Tinian Health Center will be CLOSED.

Patients will be contacted to reschedule appointments that are affected by these closures. The CHC Hospital, Tinian Health Center, and Rota Health Center emergency rooms will remain open 24/7 despite weather conditions.

Advisory for expectant mothers

The CHCC will provide shelter for pregnant women who are at least 36 weeks pregnant or at risk for preterm labor during the typhoon. Please contact (670) 234-8950 for more information.

Residents of Tinian and Rota can report to the Tinian and Rota Health Centers, respectively.

Advisory regarding filling medication

The CHCC recommends that all residents make sure they have enough of their prescription medications to last at least one week. This is especially important for people with diabetes, hypertension, or uncontrolled asthma. Store your medications in a waterproof container and take them with you to wherever you are sheltering from the storm.

Government offices

In anticipation of the Typhoon Condition I declaration for the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, all government offices will remain closed until an "All Clear" declaration is announced.

Educational institutions

Public School System

The CNMI Public School System has announced that its classes have been canceled and all PSS departments will be closed until further notice. The continuation or cancellation of classes for other educational institutions will be announced by the respective institutions.

Northern Marianas College

Northern Marianas College campuses on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota will be closed on Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2023. NMC students and employees are advised to check their NMC email (@marianas.edu) for further updates regarding the reopening of campuses.

Northern Marianas Technical Institute

Northern Marianas Technical Institute (NMTech) will be closed on Tuesday Oct. 10, 2023 and Wednesday, October 11, 2023.

During the storm

During the storm, Gov. Palacios, Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, and CNMI HSEM advise CNMI residents to take the following measures:

■ Stay indoors. Unless for emergency purposes, do not drive until the all-clear is given. Remain off roadways to allow first responders to clear debris and attend to those who need assistance most.

■ Stay away from windows and sliding glass doors.

■ Be sure that important documents such as birth certificates, tax papers, and insurance documents are properly secured, and copies are in a weather-proof bag.

■ Stay up to date with the latest information from the National Weather Service and the CNMI Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and other official sources.

Mental health matters

Given the anxiety and stress that the storm (and preparing for the storm) may bring, everyone is also asked to be mindful of the stress, anxiety, and other emotional/mental impacts that may affect our family, friends, and coworkers. Make time to:

■ Eat nutritious meals

■ Drink plenty of water; Get exercise wherever you can in your home

■ Get abundant rest

■ Value yourself and those around you. Set aside time for a regular routine of deep breathing or other stress reduction methods to alleviate your feelings of anxiety

■ Check-in on your family and friends periodically and offer support and assistance

■ Quiet your mind

■ Set realistic goals and actions for preparation activities before, during, and after the storm

■ Avoid alcohol and drugs

■ Obtain professional help when you need it

Stay informed

The Office of the Governor advises the community to keep a close watch on official updates relating to weather forecasts and stay informed on the latest statements and advisories which will be available through official channels (listed below) and media partners.

Again, this is an evolving situation—the direction, speed, intensification rate, and other attributes of the storm may change over the next few hours. The CNMI Office of the Governor and CNMI HSEM will be monitoring the movement of the storm, continue to consult with the National Weather Service and other agencies, and continue to provide updates when available and when appropriate. For additional information, visit the following:

■ CNMI EOC State Warning Point Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/cnmieocswp/

■ CNMI Office of the Governor Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/cnmigovernor

■ NWS Website: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

■ NWS Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/NWSGuam/

■ Joint Typhoon Warning Center Website: https://www.metoc.navy.mil/jtwc/jtwc.html ***(PR)***

KARIDAT
Catholic Charities - Diocese of Chalan Kanoa

A Northern Mariana Islands Social Service

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) ACCOUNTANT

For more information, job description and an application visit the Karidat main office in Dandan Village, Dandan Road, or interested applicants can email: info@karidat.org to receive a position description and fillable application form.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED: A completed application form, copy of diploma/degree, resume/bio-data; current police clearance within 6 months and a copy of valid CNMI driver's license.

NO PHONE INQUIRIES PLEASE.
CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY, October 20, 2023 AT 4:00 PM

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION FOR BID

PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-006-23
SUBMISSION DATE: OCTOBER 11, 2023: 2:00 P.M.

"CONSTRUCTION OF TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SIGN"

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 08, 2023. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $50.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "CONSTRUCTION OF TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SIGN (IFB-006-23)" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., OCTOBER 11, 2023. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO DATE: _____
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: info@cnmilicensing.gov.mp • Website: www.cnmilicensing.gov.mp

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on ***Friday, October 13, 2023, at 8 a.m.*** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Board of Professional Licensing Conference Room, BPL Building on Capitol Hill.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (08/31/2023)
V. Public Comments
VI. Chairperson's Report
  A. Letter from Dental Care Petitioning to Supervise more than Three Full-time Dental Therapists
  B. FY 2024 Annual Budget
  C. Executive Director's Position (Renewal)
VII. Director's Report
  A. Financial Report on end of Fiscal Year 2023
  B. Update on Office Operations for FY 2024
  C. Update on Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists Regulations
VIII. Investigator's Report
IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
  A. Governor's Office
    1. MEMO From SAA for Fiscal Restraint
    2. Directive 2024-001 – Modified Government Hours for Executive Branch
  B. Legislature
X. Old Business
  • Special Ad Hoc Committee Update on Professional Counselor and Social Worker Regulations
XI. New Business
XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
  A. New Application
  B. Renewal Application
XIII. Miscellaneous Business
XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
  A. Clinical Psychologist – Request for License Extension
  B. One Physician Application
XV. Announcements
  A. Next Meeting Date
  B. Off island
  C. Adjournment of Meeting

LEIGH GASES

Mariana Islands Nature Alliance 10th Annual Green Gala guests, including Department of Corrections Commissioner Anthony Torres, front left, and Island Training Solutions' Hannah Blanco, third from left, pose for a photo during the event at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan last Friday night.

LEIGH GASES

Mariana Islands Nature Alliance 10th Annual Green Gala guests, including Mariana and Justis "Cuki" Alvarez, far left and second from left, pose for a photo during the event at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan last Friday night.

Environmental heroes feted during MINA 10th Annual Green Gala

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mariana Islands Nature Alliance feted winners of its Green Awards at its annual Green Gala last Friday night at Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan's Hibiscus Hall.

Sheila Babauta won Environmental Champion Award for her demonstration of extraordinary commitment to the environment and preservation of the CNMI's natural resources.

The Environmental Heroes Award was awarded to the 4-H Marianas whose students exemplify an eagerness to learn about and demonstrate a passion for conservation.

Marianas Creations, owned by Elina Gharti Chhetri, was awarded the Green Business of the Year award.

Besides bestowing awards to annual environmental heroes, MINA also held a silent auction that gave away items such as coasters, keychains, and fishing floaters created from recycled plastics made through MINA's community recycles plastics program.

LEIGH GASES

A silent auction was held during the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance 10th Annual Green Gala last Friday at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

LEIGH GASES

The Mariana Islands Nature Alliance 10th Annual Green Gala last Friday at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan featured giveaway items such as coasters, keychains, and fishing floaters created from recycled plastics made through MINA's community recycles plastics program.

LEIGH GASES

Mariana Islands Nature Alliance 10th Annual Green Gala guests, including Robert Suzuki of 4-H Marianas, winner of the Environmental Heroes Award, far right, Saipan Chamber of Commerce vice president Joshua Wise, second from right, and Catherine Attao-Toves of Tan Holdings, pose for a photo

LEIGH GASES

Some of Mariana Islands Nature Alliance Tasi-Watch Community Rangers pose for a photo at the entrance of the 10th Annual Green Gala at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan last Friday night.

LEIGH GASES

Mariana Islands Nature Alliance executive director, Roberta Guerrero, far right, sits with MINA chair Frankie Eliptico, second from right, and other guests at the 10th Annual Green Gala at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan last Friday night.

LEIGH GASES

From left, Mariana Islands Nature Alliance chair Frankie Eliptico speaks during the 10th Annual Green Gala, and is joined on stage by MINA executive director Roberta Guerrero, Somia Quan, Ron Smith, and Fran Castro.

Biden approves emergency declaration for Guam

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Federal Emergency Management Agency announced that federal disaster assistance has been made available to Guam to supplement response efforts due to emergency conditions resulting from Tropical Storm Bolaven beginning Oct. 8, 2023, and continuing.

Biden

The President's action authorizes FEMA to coordinate and provide appropriate assistance to save lives, to protect property, public health and safety and to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe.

Specifically, FEMA is authorized to identify, mobilize and provide, at its discretion, equipment and resources necessary to alleviate the impacts of the emergency. Emergency protective measures, including direct federal assistance under the public assistance program, will be provided at 75% federal funding.

Benigno B. Ruiz has been named Federal Coordinating Officer for federal recovery operations in the affected areas. ***(PR)***

GUAM TYPHOON BRIEFS

Micronesia Mall reopens today

Micronesia Mall will resume normal operational hours 10am-8pm, today, Oct. 11, 2023.

This after it closed 1:30pm yesterday, while MM Theatres remained open with limited movie showings. ***(PR)***

GRMC suspends visitation

Guam Regional Medical City suspended visiting hours as of 12pm yesterday. All GRMC clinics were open only until 12pm yesterday and will reopen once the island is placed on Condition of Readiness (COR) 4. All appointments will be rescheduled accordingly.

All admitted patients are permitted to have one (1) watcher. Watchers must be checked in with Customer Relations in the main lobby no later than Tuesday, Oct. 10, at 12pm. Switching out will not be permitted after this time. Please note; watchers are encouraged to bring food for personal consumption (that does not require refrigeration) for the duration of the storm. Watchers advised not to bring personal linens and pillows as these will be provided.

All emergencies will be properly assessed, triaged, and treated accordingly. ***(PR)***

GCC campus closed as Tropical Storm Bolaven approached

Guam was placed under Condition of Readiness (COR) 1 by 10pm Monday night, in anticipation of Tropical Storm Bolaven's approach to the Marianas Islands. The Guam Community College campus will remain closed to the public.

All classes, bootcamps, and scheduled testing have been canceled. Stay tuned to local media for updates on when a decision is made to resume classes and reopen the campus. A notice will be shared through local media, on our social media pages on Facebook and Instagram at @GuamCC and on MyGCC. The campus will resume operations once the island returns to Condition of Readiness 4 (COR-4) and the campus has been cleared to open.

We urge our GCC community to stay vigilant and use the remaining time wisely by preparing their homes and families for the arrival of TS Bolaven, forecasted for Tuesday, Oct. 10. ***(PR)***

BOH also temporarily closed Guam branches

Bank of Hawaii has announced that it closed all branch operations yesterday, Oct. 10, in Guam due to Tropical Storm Bolaven. The bank's Hagatna and Harmon branches on Guam and its Gualo Rai branch on Saipan will remain temporarily closed starting Tuesday until further notice, as the storm continues on a path toward the Marianas and is expected to continue increasing in strength.

Last Monday, Bank of Hawaii announced the temporary closure of its Gualo Rai branch on Saipan starting yesterday, Oct. 10. The bank will continue to assess the status of its West Pacific branches, and will update the public on branch closures and reopenings as Bolaven continues on its path.

Call Center operations remain open to assist customers. West Pacific region customers may continue to contact Bank of Hawaii through its Call Center at 1-877-553-2424 for Guam and Saipan. Bank of Hawaii's Call Center on Guam will be automatically re-routed to Hawaii.

Online and mobile banking services will continue to operate unless power interruptions are experienced. Bank of Hawai'i will also place public updates on all of its social media platforms (Facebook: www.facebook.com/bankofhawaii, Instagram: www.instagram.com/bankofhawaii and X (formerly Twitter: www.twitter.com/bankofhawaii), as well as its website: www.boh.com. ***(PR)***

Guam remains in COR 1; Bolaven upgraded to typhoon

GUAM—Guam remains in Condition of Readiness (COR) 1 at this time. The community is advised to remain indoors until COR 4 is announced.

Bolaven update

As of 1pm, Bolaven has been upgraded to a typhoon. Typhoon Bolaven was located near 14.0 degrees north latitude and 146.0 degrees east longitude, about 90 miles east-northeast of Guam, moving northwest at 15 mph, with maximum sustained winds of 80 mph.

On its current track, Bolaven is anticipated to pass north of Rota, between Rota and Tinian.

What to expect

A flash flood warning is now in effect island-wide for Guam until 4:15pm. Between 1 and 1.8 inches of rain have already fallen. Additional rainfall amounts of 2 to 3.6 inches are possible. Flash flooding is ongoing or expected to begin shortly.

■ Be aware of your surroundings and remain off the roadways;

■ Be alert for low visibilities in heavy rain;

■ Slow down where water is ponding on the road;

■ Turn Around, Don't Drown. Avoid walking or driving through flood waters. Just 6 inches of moving water can knock you down, and 2 feet of water can sweep your vehicle away.

Guam can expect a heavy rain event. The closest point of approach was expected between 2pm and 6pm yesterday but this could change. The worst conditions are expected between noon, with tropical storm force winds (39 mph or more) through this evening but even after that, torrential rainfall is expected. Rainfall amounts of about 1 foot to 1.5 feet of rain between sunrise this morning and tomorrow morning are expected.

Stay out of the water

Residents and visitors of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are cautioned against engaging in any kind of water-related activities during the approach and passing of Tropical Storm Bolaven. The public is advised to stay clear of the ocean as hazardous sea conditions are being created by Tropical Storm Bolaven.

In addition to entering the water during heavy surf and rough seas, residents and visitors are also advised against venturing along trails close to the water or shoreline, as high surf can knock a person down and sweep them off beaches and rocks. These waves can be deadly, even for the most experienced swimmers.

Residents should also be informed that before and during the storm, rescue personnel may not be able to respond due to deteriorating weather conditions. Resources such as boats, jet skis, and aircraft normally involved in search and rescue operations have been secured due to conditions being too dangerous.

Please continue to monitor weather conditions as Tropical Storm Bolaven makes its approach to Guam and the CNMI.

DPHSS update

The Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) is providing the following tips to help preserve insulin and other medication:

■ Insulin, when opened, can last 14-28 days in room temperature.

■ Insulin mixtures such as Novolog Mix 70/30 can last up to 28 days in room temperature in a Vial and 14 days if in a FlexPen.

■ Long-acting insulin such as Lantus can last up to 28 days if in a Vial, Cartridge or SoloStar Pen.

■ Insulin products such as vials or cartridges supplied by manufacturers (opened or unopened) may be left unrefrigerated at temperatures between 59¬∞F and 86¬∞F for up to 28 days and continue to work. However, an insulin product that has been altered for the purpose of dilution or to transfer it to the manufacturer's original vial should be discarded within two (2) weeks.

■ Insulin loses some effectiveness when exposed to extreme temperatures. Keep insulin away from direct heat and out of direct sunlight.

■ Under emergency conditions, individuals can use insulin that has been stored above 86¬∞F until access to properly stored insulin becomes available again.

■ When in doubt, follow the manufacturer's instructions listed on the packaging. For more information, individuals can visit the United States Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) website at fda.gov.

Emergency shelters update

If you need to evacuate to an emergency shelter, before you leave home, shut off your incoming electricity at the main breaker or switch, usually located by the electric meter or in the circuit breaker panel.

If you are dependent on an electrically-powered life support system, consider having a backup generator. Otherwise, make plans ahead of time to go to an alternate location where electricity will be available.

The Guam Department of Education opened six emergency shelters at 6 p.m. this evening. GDOE is able to accommodate O2 dependent residents who need a power source at certain emergency shelters. See below for more information:

Emergency shelter current numbers Max capacity % capacity

AsTumbo Elementary School 94 182 49%

Machanaonao Elementary School 199 208 96%

■ Maria A. Ulloa Elementary School97 285 32%

Upi Elementary School 2 336 1%

■ George Washington High School33 100 31%

■ Talo'fo'fo Elementary School32 311 8%

Total 457 1,422 32%

■ Emergency shelter able to accommodate O2 dependent residents

What should you take to the shelter?

■ 7-day supply of food and water for all members of your family

■ Bedding

■ Personal hygiene products

■ Medication

■ 7-day of supply for infants and toddlers, including diapers and formula

■ Valid Photo ID

■ Important documents including birth certificates, passports and medical immunization cards

Shelter rules

■ Be respectful to fellow residents and staff. No foul language, abusive behavior, stealing or destruction of property will be accepted or tolerated.

■ Busing to/from shelters is available at the Mayors' Offices.

■ Bring a 7-day supply of food, water & prescriptions; infants & toddlers should have a 7-day supply of disposable diapers, baby formula & baby food.

■ Bring bedding, toiletries, toilet tissue, and personal hygiene products.

■ Must complete registration. Bring a form of valid I.D.

■ Must report tuberculosis or flu-like symptoms.

■ Alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, and weapons are not allowed in the shelter or on the shelter grounds. Persons caught in possession will be asked to leave the shelter and in some cases turned over to law enforcement personnel. Persons determined to be under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs will not be admitted, or readmitted to the shelter.

■ Public Law 21-139 dictates that there is no smoking on school premises. Smoking is not allowed in the shelter. Smoking is permitted outside the campus in designated smoking areas only. Please dispose of cigarette butts properly.

■ Quiet hours will be announced and enforced in the sleeping areas. However, sleeping areas should be kept quiet at all times.

■ If you bring vital documents (i.e. Birth records, passports, etc.), secure them or keep them on you at all times. The Shelter is not responsible for these items if stolen.

■ Parents must maintain responsibility and supervision for their children. Children must never be left unattended.

■ No cooking or gas stoves.

■ For your safety DO NOT LEAVE THE SHELTER before COR 4 has been declared.

■ Only service animals are allowed at this time.

■ Pets cannot be sheltered at this time. For those seeking shelter for their pets, make plans for them now to stay with a loved one, friend or family member as pets will not be allowed in the emergency shelters.

Visit GIAA Website for Live Flight Data:

The Guam International Airport Authority (GIAA) reminds the community that the airport is open 24/7 and will service any and all airline flights. Passengers are advised to contact their respective airlines for the latest updates. Visit https://www.guamairport.com/ to view live flight data.

Visit the following links for the latest information:

■ NWS Website: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

■ NWS Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/NWS-Guam/

■ GHS/OCD Website: https://ghs.guam.gov/

■ GHS/OCD Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/GHSOCD/

■ JRM Facebook https://www.facebook.com/jrmguam

■ AAFB Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Andersen36WG

■ NBG Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/USNavalBaseGuam

■ MCBCB Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/MCBcampblaz

■ Tune in to local radio stations: Boss 104 FM, Hit Radio 100 100.3 FM, Kool FM 92.7, KPRG 89.3 FM, The Point 93.3 FM and 1350 AM and Star 101 FM, KSTO 95.5, KISH FM 102.9

For more information, contact the Joint Information Center at (671) 478-0208/09/10. ***(PR)***

Opinion

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Mark Rabago EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

You're already drinking dinosaur pee. So don't be afraid of recycled wastewater

Perhaps the biggest development in water over the last three decades has been the change in attitude among consumers about their liquid assets. After repeated droughts punctuated by history-making deluges, Californians appear more open than ever to embracing reuse of stormwater, wastewater and seawater—as long as we can be certain that it is clean and safe to drink.

The public is getting used to the idea that all water on the planet has at some point passed through someone's or something's body or encountered some questionable substance on the land or underground. There's a joke among scientists: We're already drinking dinosaur pee.

Of course, water that was once stegosaurus urine has been purified by the passage of time and by repeated cycles of seeping into the ground, rising to the surface, evaporating, falling as rain and seeping into the ground all over again.

Yet even water from supposedly pure aquifers or mountain streams must be cleaned before it's considered safe to consume under modern standards. By the time it gets to the faucet, it's equally clean whether it last passed through a mammoth millennia ago or your next-door neighbor last year.

California law requires purified water that was recycled from sewage to first be stored in the ground before it can be pumped out and reused for drinking. Even if that procedure doesn't add a meaningful layer of purification—because it was already cleaned before being stored—the step helped consumers get over the "yuck" factor. They could honestly tell themselves they were drinking water from the ground, and conveniently forget that it was once in the sewer.

That's how it works in Orange County, a pioneer in the system known as indirect potable reuse. Southern California is the nation's leader in that type of water recycling.

But if recycled wastewater is being cleaned anyway to a level of purity that had never before been distributed to household taps, why go to the expense of first putting it in the ground? It makes more sense to put the water directly into water supply or upstream of a water treatment plant.

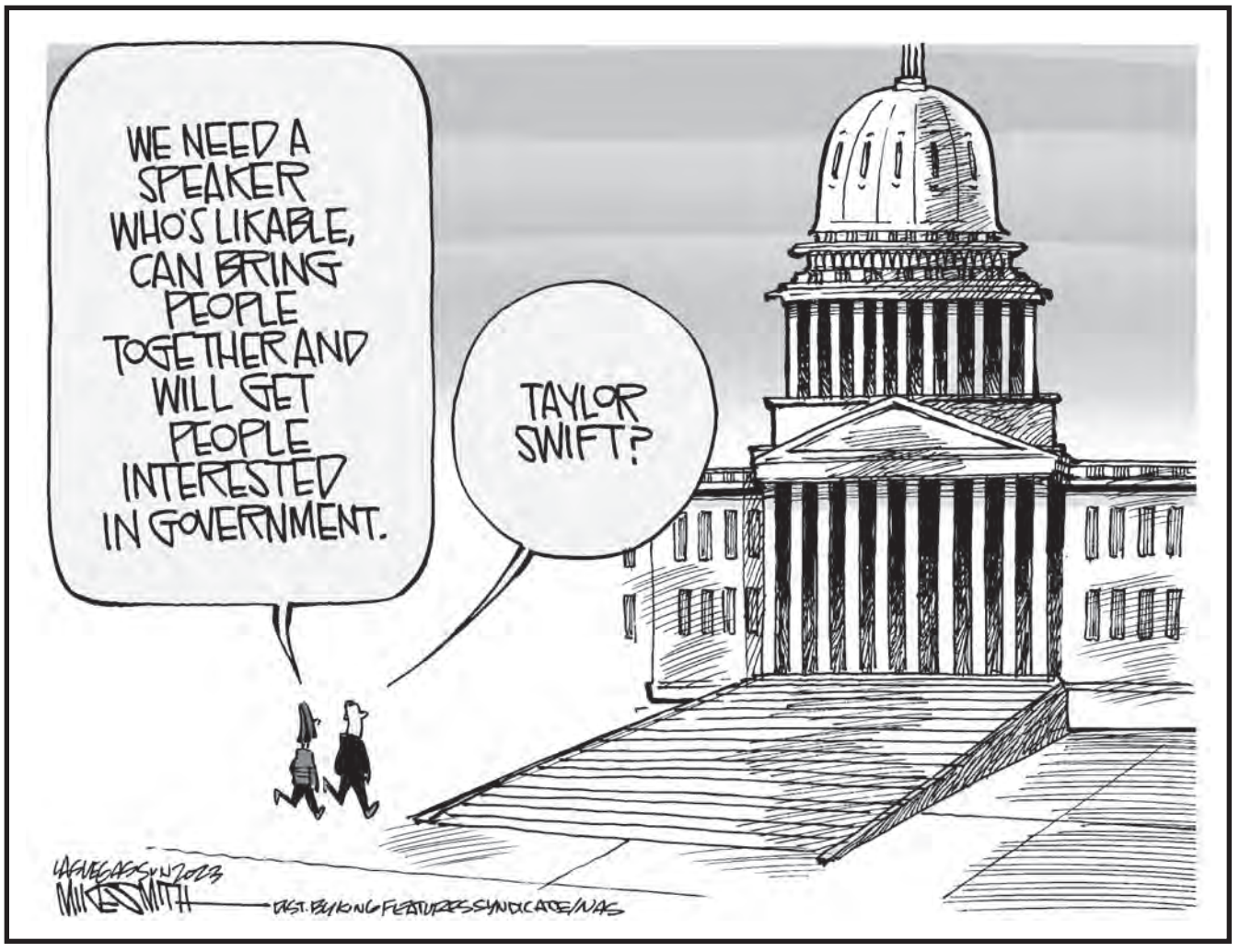
This process is known as direct potable reuse.

Under state legislation passed in 2017, the Division of Drinking Water of the State Water Resources Control Board is drafting regulations to govern direct potable reuse and must complete them by the end of the year.

It's an important step forward in securing ample high-quality water for Californians at a time when the Sierra snowpack is no longer reliable year to year, the Colorado River is drying up, Owens River water is needed to protect Mono Lake, and Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta water is needed to preserve the species that use the system for migration.

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and the Southern California Metropolitan Water District have wisely

See YOU'RE on Page 9


WE NEED A SPEAKER WHO'S LIKABLE, CAN BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER AND WILL GET PEOPLE INTERESTED IN GOVERNMENT.
TAYLOR SWIFT?
MIKE SMITH
DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE/NAS

America's political dysfunction is harming our reputation and national security

By ELIZABETH SHACKELFORD
Chicago Tribune

Elizabeth Shackelford is a senior fellow on U.S. foreign policy with the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. She was previously a U.S. diplomat and is the author of The Dissent Channel: American Diplomacy in a Dishonest Age.

America's national security depends heavily on the strength and effectiveness of our foreign policy and defense. Both are suffering self-inflicted wounds caused by our dysfunctional politics.

As our political representatives can barely accomplish the most basic governing obligations, our adversaries delight, and our allies wonder if we can be counted on as reliable partners.

The most blatant mess has been our government's budget debacle. We have the world's largest economy and yet nearly defaulted on our debt only four months ago. Congressional Republicans used that risk as leverage to force negotiations on future spending, narrowly reaching agreement with the White House just in time to avert financial disaster.

The only upside of that fiasco should have been some breathing room after the two sides reached a difficult two-year deal on spending. But, alas, Congress brought us to the brink of a government shutdown in disagreement over that same budget only months later. The last-minute stopgap measure that Congress passed only hours before a shutdown began offers only a 45-day reprieve—but with consequences.

A handful of Republican hard-liners went to the mat to cut support for Ukraine. This raises real questions about Congress' ability to secure additional support for Ukraine in the future, even though the majority of both parties in both houses support it, as does a majority of the American public. It also inevitably raises questions among our partners and allies around the world regarding America's reliability.

Our reputation broadly suffers, but so do programs that serve our interests. Take PEPFAR, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, which has been wildly successful in getting the AIDS epidemic under control globally. With broad bipartisan support for two decades, it has saved some 25 million lives. Congress' temporary budget fix didn't reauthorize PEPFAR, so parts of the program expired over the weekend, putting at risk progress not only against AIDS but also much of our health care support around the world.

Meanwhile, a single Republican senator, Tommy Tuberville of Alabama, has blocked more than 300 nonpolitical military promotions for months. Tuberville claims he will release the hold only if the Defense Department ends its policy of paying for service members to travel across state lines to seek reproductive health care. The Pentagon asserts that these services are essential to ensure the welfare and readiness of its forces. Tuberville's move clearly undermines our national security by leaving dozens of essential positions unfilled or filled by temporary acting appointments.

While today's Republican Party holds most responsibility for this dysfunction, don't underestimate the damage caused by Democratic Sen. Bob Menendez's corruption scandal. He allegedly accepted bribes in exchange for using his position as head of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to benefit the Egyptian government.

For several years, many lawmakers have called for cutting U.S. security assistance to Egypt in response to the government's abysmal human rights record. Only a small fraction of the $1.3 billion Egypt receives annually has been withheld as a result. Undoubtedly, Menendez's assistance played a role in that success. Menendez reportedly used his leadership position to influence U.S. government decisions regarding the aid and even ghostwrote a letter for the Egyptian government requesting more. This interference raises real questions regarding whether this assistance has served U.S. national interests or merely those of the Egyptian government.

Corruption happens everywhere, but the real test is how governments deal with it. Given the seriousness of the charges and evidence against Menendez, expulsion from the Senate would seem the obvious outcome. But politics will make that a hard pill to swallow—not only for Democrats who don't want to risk losing that Senate seat in 2024, but also Republicans who don't want to set a precedent for ousting indicted members, as that might impair their own slim majority in the House.

But if Democratic lawmakers can't give greater fealty to the law than to politics, they can hardly be taken seriously for condemning their colleagues across the aisle for doing the same.

It is likely no coincidence that America's age of political dysfunction coincides with a period of deterioration in the international order.

The international community proved unable to deter Russia from its full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Negotiations by the United States and other countries were not able to resolve the ongoing Azeri-Armenian conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, which Azerbaijan ended in September with a military offensive following a monthslong

See AMERICA'S on Page 9

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Enhancing the Nutrition Assistance Program in the CNMI: Addressing key challenges

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Racquel H. Floyd is an advisor member of the Center for Science in the Public Interest.

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has long recognized the importance of the Nutrition Assistance Program in providing essential support to individuals and families facing food insecurity. NAP has been a lifeline for many, but it's essential to acknowledge and address certain challenges within the program to make it even more effective and inclusive.

Extending the shelf life

One of the key challenges faced by NAP recipients in the CNMI is the strict expiration dates on the program's coupons, a pressing concern among NAP recipients. While these coupons are a vital source of sustenance, they often pose significant challenges for households grappling with limited freezer or refrigerator space. The need to store perishable items for extended periods can become a logistical hurdle that leads to unnecessary food waste.

> It's time for the CNMI to take a comprehensive look at NAP, making it a beacon of support and inclusivity for all those in need.

The issue of food waste is a global concern, and addressing it at the local level is not only environmentally responsible but also imperative in the context of food security. In the CNMI, where the supply chain is inherently vulnerable due to geographic isolation, it becomes even more critical to find ways to optimize food distribution.

One potential solution lies in reconsidering the expiration dates of certain items within the NAP program. By offering more flexible expiration dates for perishable items, such as fresh produce or dairy products, the CNMI can reduce the pressure on recipients to consume these items quickly. This simple adjustment could alleviate the logistical and storage challenges faced by many households and, in turn, help to minimize food waste.

Additionally, the NAP program could explore alternative options for non-perishable items. Instead of relying solely on coupons with expiration dates, the program could introduce a system that allows beneficiaries to access non-perishable items on an as-needed basis. This approach would ensure that recipients receive these essential items when they need them most, reducing the likelihood of items going to waste. Moreover, educating NAP recipients about proper food storage and preservation techniques can also play a vital role in reducing food waste. Providing information on how to extend the shelf life of certain items, such as freezing or canning, could empower recipients to make the most of the food assistance they receive.

Balancing convenience with inclusivity

Electronic payment systems have revolutionized the way we handle financial transactions, offering numerous benefits such as reduced administrative costs and increased convenience for both recipients and program administrators. However, the CNMI must be cautious not to leave behind individuals who may not have access to the internet or traditional banking facilities. This group includes some of the most vulnerable members of our community.

To address this challenge, the CNMI NAP program should consider implementing a phased approach to the transition from paper to electronic payments. This approach involves maintaining paper-based options while gradually introducing electronic payment methods. By doing so, the program can ensure that all beneficiaries, regardless of their technological capabilities, can access their benefits without disruption.

Providing support and alternatives for individuals without internet access or bank accounts is crucial during this transition. This could include setting up support centers where beneficiaries can receive assistance in navigating electronic payment systems or conducting transactions. Outreach and education efforts should be expanded to ensure that all participants are well-informed about the changes and how to adapt to them.

Furthermore, it's essential to consider the potential challenges that electronic payments may pose to certain groups, such as the elderly or those living in remote areas. Addressing these challenges may involve partnerships with local organizations, community leaders, and financial institutions to develop solutions that cater to the specific needs of these populations.

To strike a balance, the CNMI NAP program should consider providing support and alternatives for those without internet access or bank accounts. This could involve maintaining paper-based options while gradually phasing in electronic payments, thus ensuring that all beneficiaries can access their benefits.

The need for diverse and nutritious options

The CNMI is known for its stunning natural beauty, but it also faces unique challenges due to its geographic location and shipping delays. Among these challenges is the limited variety of food choices available to its residents, a situation that has gained increasing attention in recent years. While NAP plays a vital role in addressing hunger in the CNMI, there is a pressing need to expand the range of food options provided to improve the overall nutrition and health outcomes of its recipients.

The CNMI, situated in the western Pacific, faces inherent limitations when it comes to the availability of fresh produce, whole grains, and lean protein sources. The remoteness of the islands, coupled with shipping delays and logistical challenges, often result in a restricted selection of food items. As a result, residents may find it difficult to access a balanced diet, and this issue has far-reaching implications for public health.

It is crucial to emphasize the importance of balanced nutrition, particularly in a region where non-communicable diseases like diabetes and heart disease are prevalent. By offering a broader spectrum of healthy food choices, the CNMI can take a significant step forward in promoting the well-being of its residents. Fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grains, and lean proteins are essential components of a healthy diet, and their availability should be a priority within the NAP program.

Efforts to address this issue could involve partnerships with local farmers and food producers to boost the supply of fresh and locally sourced products. Additionally, initiatives to improve infrastructure and transportation systems could help reduce shipping delays, making it easier to access a wider variety of foods. Educating the community about the benefits of a balanced diet and providing resources on meal planning and healthy cooking could also contribute to healthier eating habits.

Accommodating religious food restrictions

Religious dietary restrictions are a deeply personal and integral aspect of many individuals' lives in the CNMI. It is crucial that the NAP program acknowledges and respects these beliefs, ensuring that all residents can access the program's benefits without compromising their faith or values.

Options include offering alternative food choices, providing information on culturally appropriate options, collaborating with local communities, or providing cultural sensitively training to ensure the program respects and supports religious food restrictions. By providing substitute options, the CNMI NAP program can not only meet the basic nutritional needs of its recipients but also honor the cultural and religious diversity that makes the CNMI a unique and vibrant community. Respecting and accommodating religious food restrictions within the program is not just a matter of inclusivity but also a reflection of our shared commitment to respecting the values and traditions of all those we serve.

In conclusion, the Nutrition Assistance Program in the CNMI plays a vital role in ensuring that no one in our community goes hungry. By addressing the challenges related to coupon expiration dates, payment systems, food choices, and religious food restrictions, we can make this program even more effective. It's time for the CNMI to take a comprehensive look at NAP, making it a beacon of support and inclusivity for all those in need.

AMERICA'S

From page 8

blockade. Serbia is currently building up troops and tanks on its border with Kosovo, raising alarm about a possible invasion there as well.

These are but a few examples of aggressors worldwide probing the international community's resolve. Each of these conflicts could prove costly and consequential for our own national security interests across the globe.

For better or worse, U.S. leadership is inextricably linked with world order today. If the United States can't lead by example as a defender of democracy and the rule of law at home, we'll have a hard time defending them elsewhere.

YOU'RE

From page 8

asked for regulations that build in an ample amount of flexibility. Technologies are developing rapidly, as are new discoveries of pollutants that were previously unknown. The institutions that we charge with testing, cleaning and supplying water need to be able to quickly adjust to developing knowledge and needs.

Yet regulations must be sufficiently stringent to minimize any chance of a mishap. It would take only one filtration plant failure to erase the public confidence in water reuse.

And the rules should be clear on what is to be done with all the gunk that is extracted from wastewater. Organic matter is generally safe to add back to the soil, but what about all the salts, chemicals, metals and microplastics? That stuff can't be left to pollute the land. The new era of water recycling could help California stay hydrated as the planet warms and the water supply becomes increasingly unreliable. If done with care, it could keep the planet cleaner and safer as it makes drinking water more abundant.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

What now, CNMI?

I may be blind and naive but can someone explain to me the national security issue with Chinese tourism on our small island in the western Pacific? There doesn't seem to be a problem with the deluge of people pouring across the border in the southern states. You name the countries and they are coming to the United States—hundreds of countries.

If you support the open borders, would you apply that here? The Chinese do have passports to get to Saipan. The Chinese want to park their money outside of China.

So where are we going to get our economic development? Koreans have been our bread and butter but no boom.

Our bubble economy is over. No more flood of Japanese/Chinese/Korean investors. The boom comes from investors. They are gone for the most part. So we need tourists. We are a tourist economy. The boom for the CNMI came when there were lots of investments.

Where will our next boom come from? The military? The development of Tinian is Tinian. The infrastructure is for the military. We are in for a long hard ride. What is out there to stimulate our economy?

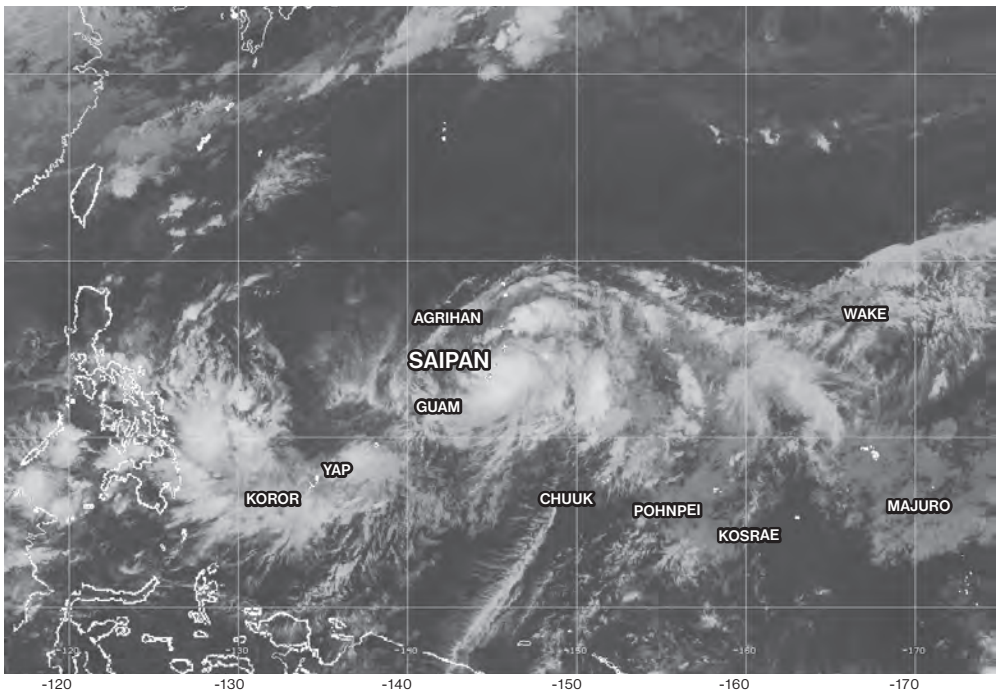
Del Benson
Capital Hill, Saipan

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Windy. South winds 20 to 30 mph with gust to 40 mph. cloudy with numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Breezy. Mostly cloudy. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Partly sunny with a 30 percent chance of showers.
84 / 76°	83 / 76°	86° / 79°	87° / 77°	86° / 79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 9:42 AM, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm Bolaven was east of Guam this morning. Bolaven was moving northwest and will pass through the islands late this afternoon.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	83° / 77°
Palau	Thunderstorm	85° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorm	84° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	88° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	88° / 76°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	87° / 82°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:07 AM	5:59 PM
Thursday	6:08 AM	5:59 PM
Friday	6:08 AM	5:58 PM
Saturday	6:08 AM	5:57 PM
Sunday	6:08 AM	5:57 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	3:09 AM	3:59 PM	-
Thursday	3:56 AM	4:32 PM	-
Friday	4:42 AM	5:06 PM	-
Saturday	5:29 AM	5:39 PM	-
Sunday	6:17 AM	6:15 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	64° / 52°
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	64° / 50°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	90° / 79°
Honolulu	Showers	88° / 77°
London	Showers	64° / 57°
Los Angeles	Sunny	85° / 57°
Manila	Thunderstorm	90° / 77°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	66° / 46°
Miami	Thunderstorm	83° / 77°
New York	Showers	62° / 55°
Osaka	Rain	75° / 70°
Paris	Showers	73° / 61°
Busan	Windy	73° / 64°
Rome	Sunny	77° / 55°
Salem	Sunny	87° / 62°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	75° / 51°
Seoul	Sunny	73° / 52°
Tokyo	Rain	77° / 73°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	73° / 54°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
5:04 AM	High Tide	1.49
11:42 AM	Low Tide	0.27
6:24 PM	High Tide	1.74
-	-	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 8, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:20PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:20AM	6:30AM	1, 4, 5, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	11:50PM	5:50AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:05PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35PM	2:20AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

Nobel economics prize goes to Harvard's Claudia Goldin

STOCKHOLM (AP)—Claudia Goldin, a Harvard University professor, was awarded the Nobel economics prize on Monday for research that helps explain why women around the world are less likely than men to work and to earn less money when they do.

Fittingly, the announcement marked a small step toward closing a gender gap among Nobel laureates in economics: Out of 93 economics winners, Goldin is just the third woman to be awarded the prize and the first woman to be the sole winner in any year.

Her award follows Nobel honors this year in medicine, physics, chemistry, literature and peace that were announced last week. And it follows last year's three winners in economics: Former Federal Reserve Chair Ben Bernanke, Douglas W. Diamond and Philip Dybvig for their research into bank failures that helped shape America's aggressive response to the 2007-2008 financial crisis.

AP

Claudia Goldin speaks to a reporter on the phone in her home in Cambridge, Mass. after learning that she received the Nobel Prize in Economics Monday, Oct. 9, 2023.

WHAT WORK WON GOLDIN THE NOBEL IN ECONOMICS?

Only about half the world's women have paid jobs, in contrast to 80% of men. Economists regard the gap as a wasted opportunity: Jobs have often failed to go to the most qualified people because women either weren't competing for work or weren't being properly considered.

In addition, a persistent pay gap—women in advanced economies earn, on average, about 13% less than men—discourages women from pursuing jobs or continuing their education to qualify for more advanced job opportunities.

Goldin, 77, explored the reasons behind such disparities. Often, she found, they resulted from decisions that women made about their prospects in the job market and about their families' personal circumstances. Some women underestimated their employment opportunities. Others felt overwhelmed by responsibilities at home.

"Women are now more educated than men," Goldin noted in an interview with The Associated Press. "They graduate from college at much higher rates than men. They do better in high school than men do. So why are there these differences?

"And we realize that these differences, although some are found within the labor market, are really reflections of what happens within individuals' homes, and they're an interaction between what happens in the home and what happens in the labor market."

HOW DID GOLDIN CONDUCT HER RESEARCH?

To understand what was happening, Goldin pored through 200 years of labor market data. The task required a laborious process of sleuthing: Women's jobs frequently didn't appear in historical records. Women who worked on farms alongside their husbands or who labored at home in cottage industries such as weaving, for example, often went uncounted.

Goldin compiled new databases using such resources as industrial statistics and historical surveys on how people used their time. She discovered that official records dramatically undercounted how much work women were doing.

WHAT DID HER WORK BRING TO LIGHT?

Correcting the record revealed some striking surprises. During the Industrial Revolution, as the U.S. and European economies rapidly expanded and shifted from farms to factories, women's share of the workforce actually declined. Before Goldin's work advanced public understanding, researchers, unfamiliar with older data, generally assumed that growing economies drew more women into the job market.

Progress in expanding female employment was slowed, in part, by women's own expectations and the experiences they had witnessed. Often, for example, they watched their own mothers stay home even after their children had grown up.

But their expectations could be "severely off the mark," and they led some women to cut short their education because they didn't expect long careers, the Nobel committee said in an essay on Goldin's work. Many women who came of age in the 1950s, for instance, did not foresee the growing opportunities of the 1960s and 1970s. Women who grew up later did, and more of them pursued higher education.

Goldin also discovered that marriage proved to be a more serious barrier to women's employment than had been previously thought. At the start of the 20th century, only 5% of married women worked, versus 20% of all women. Until the 1930s, laws often barred married women from continuing their employment as teachers or office workers.

Those laws were eventually repealed. And the birth-control pill, introduced in 1950, over time allowed women to make long-term plans for their education, careers and families. The proportion of U.S. women who either had a job or were looking for one rose steadily from the 1950s until the mid-1990s, when the figure plateaued.

WHAT EXPLAINS THE CONTINUING PAY GAP BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN?

The earnings disparity between men and women narrowed as more women went to work. But it didn't go away.

Goldin compiled two centuries of data on the gender pay disparity. She found that the earnings gap narrowed during the first half of the 19th century and then from roughly 1890 to 1930 as companies began to need many more administrative and clerical workers.

But progress in reducing the pay gap stalled from about 1930 to 1980 even though more women were working and attending college.

Goldin identified the key culprit: Parenthood. Once a woman has a child, her pay tends to drop and subsequently doesn't grow as fast as it does for men, even among women and men with similar educational and professional backgrounds.

Modern pay systems tend to reward employees with long, uninterrupted careers. And companies often demand that employees be available at all times and flexible about working late and on weekends. That can be difficult for women who typically bear more childcare responsibilities than men do.

Speaking to the AP, Goldin expressed dismay that women are less likely to work in America than in France, Canada or Japan—a reversal from the 1990s when U.S. women enjoyed the world's highest labor force participation rates.

"When I look at the numbers, I think something has happened in America," she said. "We have to ask why that's the case ... We have to step back and ask questions about piecing together the family, the home, together with the marketplace and employment."

Goldin suggested that women need more help, often from their partners, in balancing childcare and work responsibility.

"Ways in which we can even things out or create more couple equity also leads to more gender equality," said Goldin, who often works with her Harvard colleague and husband, Lawrence Katz.

Goldin noted another barrier for women: Most children get out of school sometime in the middle of the afternoon.

"Very few of us have jobs that finish at 3 o'clock in the afternoon," Goldin said. "So having extended school programs is also important, and those cost money."

Despite everything, she said: "I am an optimist. I've always been an optimist."

IMF, World Bank pledge Africa focus at first meetings on continent in 50 years

MARRAKECH, Morocco (AP)—In the shadow of a deadly earthquake in Morocco that caused nearly $12 billion in damage, the world's most powerful economic policymakers said they would focus on Africa as they work to grow and stabilizing the global economy during times of war, inequality and climate change.

The International Monetary Fund and World Bank are holding their annual meetings in Africa for the first time in 50 years as they face a growing chorus of criticism that poorer nations are underrepresented at the two institutions. Both have recently said they plan to give Africa additional seats on their executive boards. The conference theme was clear Monday during the gathering in Marrakech, although definitive details had yet to be discussed.

"We're here, Africa," IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said on a panel with African entrepreneurs.

Often lenders of last resort, the IMF and the World Bank use billions in loans and assistance to buoy struggling economies and encourage countries operating in deficit to implement reforms they say promote stability and growth.

But critics - including officials from throughout Africa - have said policies that deny economies access to credit and loans in the absence of balanced budgets often require governments to make impossible choices, including tax reform or making cuts to subsidies for food or energy.

Though the policies often intend to prevent countries from defaulting, keeping up with high interest loans in Africa means less money for critical needs, youth and infrastructure, said Nadia Fettah, Morocco's economy and finance minister.

"When we're having the conversation about how much financial resources are available, that we need to choose between food security and debt or climate finance and economic outside investment - we need both," she said. "Emerging countries need all of this, and the future of growth in the world needs growth in Africa."

Workers at Mack Trucks reject contract

DETROIT (AP),Union workers at Mack Trucks went on strike Monday after voting down a five-year contract agreement that negotiators had reached with the company.

The United Auto Workers said 4,000 unionized workers walked out at 7 a.m., adding to labor turmoil in the industry that has ensnared all three big Detroit automakers.

With those workers joining picket lines, the total number of UAW members that are on strike now exceeds 30,000 across 22 states, the union said Monday.

Union President Shawn Fain said in a letter to Mack parent company Volvo Trucks that 73% of workers voted against the deal in results counted on Sunday.

The UAW represents Mack workers in Pennsylvania, Maryland and Florida. Union leaders had reached a tentative agreement on the deal on Oct. 1.

UAW Locals 171, 677, 1247, 2301, and 2420 in UAW Region 8 and Region 9 represent workers at Mack Trucks in Macungie and Middletown, Pennsylvania; Hagerstown and Baltimore, Maryland; and Jacksonville, Florida.

The deal negotiators had reached with Mack just over a week ago included a 19% pay raise over the life of the contract with 10% upon ratification. There also was a $3,500 ratification bonus, no increase in weekly health care contributions, increased annual lump sum payments for retirees and a $1,000 annual 401(k) lump sum to offset health care costs for employees who don't get health insurance after retirement.

Fain said in his letter to Volvo Trucks' head of labor relations that employees working early Monday would exit the factories after performing tasks needed to prevent damage to company equipment.

Fain wrote that UAW members and workers across the country are seeking their fair share in wages and benefits.

The company and union are still apart on work schedules, health and safety, pensions, health care, prescription drug coverage, overtime and other issues, he wrote.

Nation

AS GOP SPLIT OVER WHO WILL BE NEXT SPEAKER

McCarthy positions himself as de facto leader

WASHINGTON (AP)—Republicans have no clear idea who will be the next U.S. House speaker, leaving an unprecedented power vacuum in Congress and severely limiting America's ability to quickly respond to the crisis in Israel — or any number of other problems at home and abroad.

On Monday, the ousted former speaker, Kevin McCarthy, quickly jumped into the void, bitterly criticizing President Joe Biden's administration over the strength of its defense of Israel and positioning himself as a de facto Republican leader even though his colleagues toppled him from power.

But it's not at all clear if McCarthy could seriously make a comeback — or if one of the other Republicans seeking the gavel, Steve Scalise or Jim Jordan, can be elected speaker as their majority stumbles into infighting. House Republicans met behind closed doors for hours Monday evening as anger and blame spilled out, with no clear path forward.

"Whether I'm speaker or not ... I can lead in any position I'm in," McCarthy, R-Calif., said earlier at the Capitol.

The upheaval in the House puts the U.S. Congress at a crossroads during a moment of crisis, the first time in history it has booted a speaker from power, operating without a constitutional officer, second in line to the presidency. House business, and with it most congressional action, has come to a standstill.

There are unanswered questions about what, if anything, the Congress can do with only an interim speaker pro tempore, a position created to ensure the continuity of government after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. At risk is immediate aid to Israel along with passage of a resolution that would show U.S. support for Israel and condemnation of Hamas for the attack as the region is now engulfed in war.

And there are broader demands on Congress, including Ukraine's requests for aid as it fights Russia and the need to fund the U.S. government again by Nov. 17 or risk a federal shutdown. The Senate meanwhile is also out of session, on recess until next week.

"The world is watching," Rep. Michael McCaul, a Texas Republican who chairs the House Foreign Relations, said he told the meeting. "They are seeing a dysfunctional democracy."

Republicans are planning to vote as soon as Wednesday, first in private balloting and later on the House floor, where a majority would be needed to choose the next speaker after McCarthy's historic ouster by a handful of hardline Republicans led by Rep. Matt Gaetz, R-Fla.

AP

Former Speaker of the House Rep. Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., speaks during a news conference at the Capitol in Washington, Monday, Oct. 9, 2023.

Asked if McCarthy could make a comeback, Gaetz said, "I wouldn't bet on it."

Any speaker's vote by midweek seems aspirational rather than realistic. Neither Scalise, the majority leader who is the second-ranking Republican in the House, nor Jordan, who is the chairman of the Judiciary Committee and backed by Donald Trump, appears to have the votes needed to secure the majority vote.

"Does anybody have the votes? No," said Rep. Mike Lawler of New York, a centrist Republican pushing for McCarthy to be reinstated as speaker.

Both Scalise and Jordan have eyed the speaker's gavel for some time and come with political strengths, but also baggage that leaves colleagues split and skeptical.

Scalise is battling blood cancer, and is seen by a hero among colleagues for having survived severe injuries from a mass shooting during a congressional baseball game practice in 2017. But the Louisiana Republican had apologized in 2014 after he was found to have addressed a white supremacist group in 2002 founded by a former Ku Klux Klan leader. Scalise said he didn't know of the group's racial views.

"The House needs to get back to work," Scalise said he told his colleagues.

Jordan is a high-profile political firebrand known for his close alliance with Trump, particularly when the then-president was working to overturn the results of the 2020 election, leading to the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol.

Some years ago, Jordan and his office denied allegations from former wrestlers during his time as an assistant wrestling coach at Ohio State University who accused him of knowing about claims they were inappropriately groped by an Ohio doctor. Jordan and his office have said he was never aware of any abuse.

Biden's 2nd try at student loan cancellation moves forward with debate over plan's details

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden's second attempt at student loan cancellation is moving forward with a round of hearings beginning Tuesday to negotiate the details of a new plan.

In a process known as negotiated rulemaking, 14 people chosen by the Biden administration will meet for the first of three hearings on student loan relief. Their goal is to guide the Education Department toward a proposal after the Supreme Court rejected Biden's first plan in June.

The negotiators all come from outside the federal government and represent a range of viewpoints on student loans. The panel includes students and officials from a range of colleges, along with loan servicers, state officials and advocates including the NAACP.

Biden directed the Education Department to find another path to loan relief after the conservative court ruled that he couldn't cancel loans using a 2003 law called the HEROES Act.

The latest attempt will rest on a sweeping law known as the Higher Education Act, which gives the education secretary authority to waive student loans—although how far that power extends is the subject of legal debate. The department is going through the negotiated rulemaking process to change or add federal rules clarifying how the secretary can cancel debt.

It's unclear who will be eligible for forgiveness under the new plan and how much relief they would get. Those details will be decided after the administration takes input from the negotiators, who meet in a series of sessions scheduled to continue into December.

At the end of the process, negotiators will vote on a proposed rule drafted with input from their discussions. If they reach consensus on a proposal, the department will move forward with it. If they don't, the agency will propose its own plan, which can be finalized after a public comment period.

The Education Department routinely uses negotiated rulemaking to enact federal regulation, and it's required for any regulation related to student financial aid. It can be a long and painstaking process, and it often finishes without consensus among negotiators.

Biden has called for a new plan to help "as many borrowers as possible," but it's unclear whether it will be as expansive as his first proposal. That plan would have canceled up to $20,000 in federal student loans for borrowers with incomes below $125,000 or couples below $250,000.

Republicans rallied against the cancellation, saying it would add an unfair benefit for college graduates at the expense of taxpayers who didn't attend college.

The administration plans to finalize the new rule sometime next year, but Education Secretary Miguel Cardona has declined to say if it will be in place before next fall's presidential election. In a recent interview with The Associated Press, he said he's working "as quickly as possible."

He also noted that the court's ruling "will have to factor in to the steps we take moving forward."

Some legal analysts see the court's decision as a rejection of any mass cancellation without action from Congress. The court concluded that the education secretary has power "to make modest adjustments and additions to existing provisions, not transform them."

As a starting point for negotiators, the Education Department published an issue paper outlining some of the primary questions that will be up for debate. It offers few clues on the department's vision for loan cancellation, but it identifies five groups of borrowers who may be in need of relief.

Negotiators are being asked how the agency should help:

- Borrowers whose interest grows so much that their balances exceed what they initially owed;
- Those who are eligible for loan cancellation under existing income-driven repayment plans but have not applied for those programs;
- Those who borrowed loans to attend college programs that didn't lead to jobs with enough earnings to repay their loans;
- Borrowers with older loans taken out before Congress created benefits meant to ease the burden of student debt;
- Those who face hardships "that the current student loan system does not adequately address."

Biden interviewed as part of special counsel investigation into handling of classified documents

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden has been interviewed as part of an independent investigation into his handling of classified documents, the White House said late Monday. It's a possible sign that the investigation is nearing its end.

Special counsel Robert Hur is examining the improper retention of classified documents by Biden from his time as a U.S. senator and as vice president that were found at his Delaware home, as well as at a private office that he used in between his service in the Obama administration and becoming president.

Biden has said he was unaware he had the documents and that " there's no there there. "

Ian Sams, a spokesperson for the White House counsel's office, said in a statement that the interview was voluntary and conducted at the White House on Sunday and Monday.

It's not clear when Hur's team approached Biden's lawyers about an interview or how long they'd been negotiating. Asked on Aug. 25 if he planned to sit for an interview with the special counsel, Biden replied, "There's no such request and no such interest."

The interview could signal that the special counsel investigation is nearing its conclusion.

In 2016, then-FBI Director James Comey announced his recommendation against criminal charges for former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. the Democratic presidential nominee, over her handling of classified information just three days after agents interviewed her at FBI headquarters.

Investigators with Hur's office have already cast a broad net in the Biden probe, interviewing a wide range of witnesses about their knowledge of the handling of classified documents.

In his statement, Sams reiterated that Biden and the White House were cooperating. He referred any questions to the Justice Department.

"As we have said from the beginning, the President and the White House are cooperating with this investigation, and as it has been appropriate, we have provided relevant updates publicly, being as transparent as we can consistent with protecting and preserving the integrity of the investigation," Sams said. "We would refer other questions to the Justice Department at this time."

Asia

Mounds of rubble and grief after Afghan quake killed thousands

ZINDA JAN, Afghanistan (AP)—People dug through the rubble of the quake in western Afghanistan for their few possessions but the material losses seemed unimportant.

Saturday's 6.3 magnitude quake killed and injured thousands when it leveled an untold number of homes in Herat province. Picking through the rubble on Monday, Asadullah Khan paused to think about a future marred by grief.

Khan lost three daughters, his mother and his sister-in-law. Five members of his uncle's family have died. His neighbors are grief-stricken, too.

"We have lost 23 people in this village," Khan said.

Mounds of rubble flank the road winding through Zinda Jan district. Some door frames remain standing. There were few people in sight on Monday.

The Taliban-appointed deputy prime minister for economic affairs, Abdul Ghani Baradar, and his team visited the quake-affected region Monday to deliver "immediate relief assistance" and ensure "equitable and accurate distribution of aid," authorities said.

Top U.N officials also went to Zinda Jan to assess the extent of the damage. And in neighboring Pakistan, the government held a special session to review aid for Afghanistan, including relief teams, food, medicine, tents and blankets.

The Taliban's supreme leader has made no public comments about the quake.

Afghanistan has few reliable statistics but a spokesman for Afghanistan's national disaster authority, Janan Sayiq, told reporters in Kabul that around 4,000 people were killed or injured by the disaster. He did not provide a breakdown, but the United Nations estimates that 1,023 people were killed and 1,663 people injured in 11 villages in Zinda Jan alone.

Nearly 2,000 houses in 20 villages were destroyed, the Taliban has said. The area hit by the quake has just one government-run hospital.

Saturday's epicenter was about 40 kilometers (25 miles) northwest of the city of Herat, the provincial capital, the U.S. Geological Survey said. Several of the aftershocks have been strong, including one Monday that again caused residents of the city to rush out of their homes.

More than 35 teams from the military and nonprofit groups are involved in rescue efforts, said Sayiq, from the disaster authority.

The fast-approaching winter, combined with the new disaster, is likely to exacerbate Afghanistan's existing challenges and make it even harder for people to meet their basic needs, like adequate shelter, food, and medicine, aid groups warn.

Vital infrastructure including bridges was destroyed and emergency response teams have been deployed to provide humanitarian assistance, the International Rescue Committee said.

The global response to the quake has been slow, with much of the world wary of dealing directly with the Taliban-led government and focused on the deadly escalation between Israel and the Palestinians in the aftermath of the surprise attack by Gaza militants on Saturday.

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian called his Afghan Taliban counterpart, Amir Khan Muttaqi, to express his condolences, according to a post on X by Hafiz Zia Ahmad, the deputy spokesman for the foreign ministry in Kabul. The Iranian diplomat "promised humanitarian aid to victims," said Ahmad.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Heavy flooding in southern Myanmar displaces more than 14,000 people

BANGKOK (AP)—Flooding triggered by heavy monsoon rains in Myanmar's southern areas has displaced more than 14,000 people and disrupted traffic on the rail lines that connect the country's biggest cities, officials and state-run media said Monday. State television MRTV reported Monday evening that the number of displaced people in Bago township, about 68 kilometers (42 miles) northeast of Yangon, the country's biggest city, had climbed to that figure, and they were taking shelter in 36 relief camps. It said almost 1,000 more people in Mon state's township, just east of Bago, were sheltering in three relief camps, and there some evacuations in a northern part of Yangon. A senior official at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Lay Shwe Zin Oo, said that constant rainfall in the Bago region that began last week caused the flooding in the low-lying areas of its capital, Bago township. She said there were no casualties reported so far. Bago township recorded 7.87 inches (200 millimeters) of rainfall, its highest level in 59 years, Myanmar's Meteorological Department said Sunday. Rain or thundershowers was forecast for across the country until noon on Tuesday. One of the leaders of an emergency rescue team in Bago told The Associated Press that the flooding was up to about eight feet (2.3 meters) deep in low-lying areas and four feet (1.2 meters) downtown. "Almost the whole area of the town was flooded," Thant Zin Maung, chairman of the Mizzima Thukha Charity Foundation said by phone on Monday. "It is the third flood in the town this year and the worst in many years. All the monasteries in the town have opened relief camps. Charity organizations are evacuating people from low-lying areas as much as they can."

Evacuations ordered as remnants of Typhoon Koinu hit southern China

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—People have been moved to shelters and nearly 2,000 boats recalled to port as the remnants of Typhoon Koinu slammed into southern China on Monday after leaving one dead and over 300 injured in Taiwan. The storm bore down on the southern Chinese island province of Hainan on Monday, just south of the financial center of Hong Kong and the key manufacturing regions in the surrounding area on mainland China. The Hong Kong Observatory said on its website that Koinu was weakening from a typhoon into a tropical depression as it moved southwest along the coast of China's Guangdong province. Air and rail services have been suspended as Koinu, meaning puppy in Japanese, rolled into the region. Koinu arrived a month after southern China and Hong Kong were lashed by Typhoon Saola, which triggered Hong Kong's highest storm signal on a scale of 11. A week later, Guangdong province and Hong Kong were hit with the heaviest rains in almost 140 years. The storm also broke a windspeed record off Taiwan's east coast, which faces the Pacific Ocean. Ferry services connecting Hainan with mainland China were also suspended as Koinu moved across the island. The province is struggling to recover after its tourism industry was battered by China's draconian travel restrictions in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

World

Israel strikes downtown Gaza City

AP

Palestinians inspect the rubble of the Yassin Mosque destroyed after it was hit by an Israeli airstrike at Shati refugee camp in Gaza City, early Monday, Oct. 9, 2023.

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israeli warplanes pounded downtown Gaza City, home to Hamas' centers of government, with relentless bombardments into early Tuesday, after Israel's prime minister vowed retaliation against the Islamic militant group that would "reverberate for generations."

» Mobilizes 300K reservists as war enters 4th day

The 4-day-old war has already claimed 1,600 lives, as Israel saw gun battles in the streets of its own towns for the first time in decades and neighborhoods in Gaza were reduced to rubble. Hamas also escalated the conflict, pledging to kill captured Israelis if strikes targeted civilians without warning.

Israel said that Hamas and other militant groups in Gaza are holding more than 150 soldiers and civilians snatched from inside Israel after the attack caught its vaunted military and intelligence apparatus completely off guard.

The Israeli military said it had largely gained control in the south and "restored full control" over the border. Spokesperson Richard Hecht said no Hamas fighters have crossed into Israel since last night, although infiltrations could still be possible.

As the Israeli military activated 300,000 reservists in a massive mobilization, a major question was whether it will launch a ground assault into the tiny Mediterranean coastal territory. The last ground assault was in 2014.

Thousands of Israelis were evacuated from more than a dozen towns near Gaza, and tanks and drones were deployed to guard breaches in the Gaza border fence against new incursions. In Gaza, tens of thousands fled their homes as airstrikes leveled buildings.

The moves, along with Israel's formal declaration of war on Sunday, pointed to Israel increasingly shifting to the offensive against Hamas, threatening greater destruction in the densely populated, impoverished Gaza Strip.

"We have only started striking Hamas," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a nationally televised address. "What we will do to our enemies in the coming days will reverberate with them for generations."

On Monday, Israel found more bodies from Hamas' stunning weekend attack into southern Israeli towns. Rescue workers found 100 bodies in the tiny farming community of Be'eri—around 10% of its population—after a long hostage standoff with gunmen.

UN airs concerns for civilians as Israel steps up military response in Gaza

GENEVA (AP)—The United Nations, aid groups and public health experts expressed growing concerns Monday about humanitarian needs in Palestinian areas as Israel ratchets up a muscular military riposte and a lockdown of Gaza, after the weekend attack by Hamas militants who killed and kidnapped hundreds of civilians in Israel.

U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres led the clarion call, endeavoring to put the focus on civilians in both Israel and Gaza and renewing his condemnation of the fatalities and hostage-takings by Hamas. He also warned of the prospect of more innocent lives lost.

In a statement to reporters in New York, Guterres said that more than 137,000 people in Gaza—or about 6% of its population—were now sheltering in sites run by UNRWA, the aid agency for Palestinians. He cited reports of Israeli missile strikes on places like schools, health facilities and high-rise apartment buildings.

"I am deeply distressed by today's announcement that Israel will initiate a complete siege of the Gaza Strip, nothing allowed in—no electricity, food, or fuel," he said.

"The humanitarian situation in Gaza was extremely dire before these hostilities. Now, it will only deteriorate exponentially," Guterres said.

The U.N. chief was careful not to underplay the devastation and intense suffering among Israelis since Saturday, decrying the launching of "thousands of indiscriminate rockets that have reached central Israel, including Tel Aviv and Jerusalem" and how hundreds of Israelis were killed and many more wounded.

"I recognize the legitimate grievances of the Palestinian people. But nothing can justify these acts of terror and the killing, maiming and abduction of civilians," Guterres said.

He also noted how Israeli airstrikes had "pounded Gaza" and cited reports of hundreds of Palestinians killed and thousands injured.

Good Housekeeping

The art of being a welcomed house guest

HANDOUT/TNS

Flowers and other arrangements make for great gifts to bring as a guest.

HANDOUT/TNS

Spa items such as bath salts and scrubs are wonderful gift options.

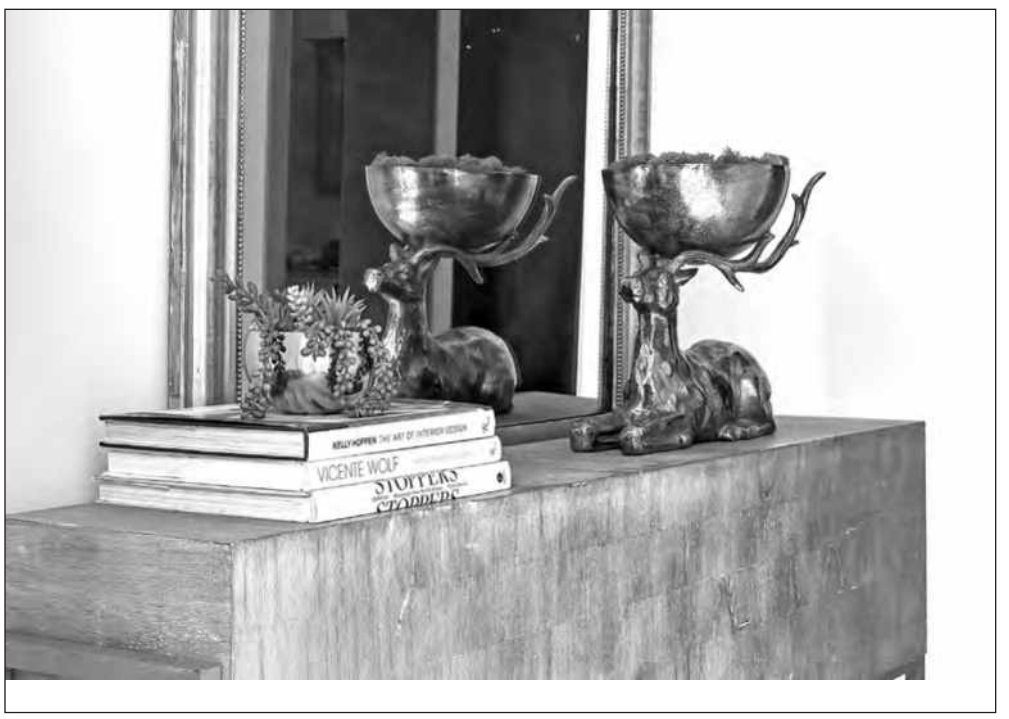
By CATHY HOBBS
Tribune News Service

With many sites offering guests a rented room or an entire dwelling, the feeling of an actual home environment is more appealing to travelers than ever. Enter: the invited house guest.

Whether it is an invitation extended by a close friend or business associate, you are going to want to make sure your stay is pleasant for both you and your host, and that you leave a good impression.

No matter your length of stay, here are some top tips on how to be a welcomed house guest (one who will likely get invited back).

■ Try not to arrive empty-handed. A bottle of wine is perfect to bring to a dinner party, but when it comes to being a house guest, a more personal gift may do the trick, such as a local guide or special book.



HANDOUT/TNS

A coffee table book or book you think your host will appreciate is always welcome.

■ Respect the rules of the house. If everyone is in bed by 9, try not to stay up making noise that may disturb your hosts. Instead, opt to retire to your room and read or watch television in private.

■ Ditch the cellphone. Someone has invited you into their home and likely wants your attention and time. Nothing is ruder than a guest who is constantly checking emails or making private phone calls.

■ Participate! You are there to enjoy your host's company and that of their family. If an invitation is extended to you for an outing, attend, even if the selected activity might not be your favorite pastime.

■ Lend a helping hand. Even if your host seems to have everything under control, offer to help. Even small tasks like making morning coffee or setting the table can help take pressure off your host.

■ Keep it tidy. Remember, you are in someone's home. It is a thoughtful and respectful gesture to keep the room you're staying in nice and clean. Upon departure, even though the sheets will be laundered after you leave, be sure to make your bed and leave the room as your host presented it to you.

■ Send a thank-you note. Regardless of the length of your stay, be sure to always send a thank-you note after your visit. This thoughtful gesture will always be appreciated.

What do I need to ask when hiring an electrician?

By PAUL F. P. POGUE
Ask Angi

Electricity is very much the beating heart and blood of your home. The wires behind your walls deliver power to your various outlets and appliances 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and we usually expect them to work all the time. And precisely because electricity contributes so many essential aspects to our homes, you'll usually want to handle any problems as soon as possible.

Ask the following questions to determine whether an electrician is the right fit for your project:

DREAMSTIME/TNS

Many tasks that involve getting into the wiring of your home require the services of a licensed electrician.

Are you up to date with the National Electrical Code?

The NEC sets the standard for service in most states. It's updated every three years, though not all states adopt the same version simultaneously. The NEC establishes safety rules about installations, sets standards such as the need for GFCI outlets in kitchens and bathrooms, and creates a standardized baseline so all electricians are working from the same playbook.

How do you charge?

Most electricians charge an hourly rate. Many have a minimum rate, even if it's just one hour. You can get more efficiency for your money by bundling multiple small jobs together. However, some electricians charge by the job, so be clear how you will be paying for the work.

Does the job require a permit?

Various cities, counties and states require different permits for different jobs. Smaller jobs rarely require a permit, but larger ones usually do. If you allow your electrician to work without a required permit, you'll fail an inspection. Skipping needed permits also signals that the electrician does not take their work seriously.

Who will be doing the work?

Some electricians do all the work themselves. Others employ helpers and apprentices. This can help keep costs down. However, verify that a licensed electrician will be supervising any unlicensed assistants.

Generally speaking, electricians hold one of three positions.

An apprentice electrician is in training and must be overseen by an experienced electrician.

A journeyperson electrician has completed their apprenticeship, passed a state exam, received their license and can do any kind of electrical work without supervision.

Master electrician is a title reserved for the most experienced electrician. Requirements vary by state, but in most cases, a master electrician must have 4,000 hours of work experience as a journeyperson and pass an in-depth examination. In most cases, master electricians oversee a staff of electricians on complex jobs or in a large contracting business.

Are you familiar with my particular problem?

Make sure the electrician has experience with the issues you're working on. Different problems pose different challenges.

Are you licensed, bonded, and insured?

These are always good questions but are particularly vital when hiring an electrician. Electrical work is dangerous and usually governed by code. Licensing provides a critical layer of protection when hiring.

What kind of warranty do you offer?

A high-quality electrician will always stand behind their work and offer a warranty in writing. Ensure you get a written warranty for both the labor and parts.

Life & Style

‘Frasier’ returns to TV but you don’t need to be a superfan of the original to laugh at its jokes

You could say Joe Cristalli tweeted his role as an executive producer and co-showrunner on the new " Frasier " sitcom into existence.

About 10 years ago as a fledgling TV writer and "Frasier" super fan, Cristalli started a Twitter account with "random jokes" about the show and character made famous by Kelsey Grammer in the sitcoms "Cheers" and "Frasier."

"It was stupid and nobody cared about it. I think I had maybe 3,000 followers at its height," he recalled in a recent interview.

At this point, "Frasier" had been off the air for 10 years, but Cristalli used it as "an outlet to practice writing because I was such a super fan and I just loved the style of joke-telling, so I would work on it."

A few years later, Cristalli read that Grammer was interested in reviving the character. He had his agent send a sample script and examples from his "Frasier"-centric Twitter feed to Grammer's team. He was eventually hired alongside "How I Met Your Mother" writer Chris Harris to be co-showrunners of a new "Frasier" series, debuting Oct. 12 on Paramount+.

CHRIS HASTON/PARAMOUNT+ VIA AP

This image released by Paramount+ shows Kelsey Grammer as Frasier Crane, left, Jess Salgueiro as Eve, center, and Jack Cutmore-Scott as Freddy in a scene from "Frasier."

This "Frasier" stars Grammer in the title role of the highbrow psychiatrist, as he moves back to Boston. His son Freddy is now grown, working as a firefighter, and Frasier realizes he needs to prioritize their relationship (much in the way the character set out to connect with his retired police officer father, played by John Mahoney, in the original). He also begins a new career as a professor at Harvard.

Writing for the character is a fun challenge, said Harris, because "when you think of Frasier Crane speaking, you think of flowery language." Because of time constraints, every line can't be in Frasier-speak. "We save those moments for certain times," said Harris.

They also reference the original series sparingly and smartly —which is an act of restraint that Cristalli said Harris helped him to understand.

"I put in a very specific reference to something in ('Frasier') season four, and I remember Chris very gently saying, 'Do you think maybe we should do jokes that everyone will laugh at?'"

"There are analogies and callbacks to the old show, but we try not to do any of them shamelessly," Cristalli said. "We're not going to just throw a recliner or a Jack Russell in, like we're trying to do them subtly and elegantly. So if you catch them, great, but we're not hanging everything on those jokes. I love (the references) ... but Chris makes a very good point. We want other people to like this show besides me."

The show is a throwback in that it's a multi-cam comedy taped in front of a live audience. Most comedies these days are single-cam and filmed without an audience.

Harris hopes the show is a success and provides a much-needed boost for the multi-cam format.

"I will say that nothing feels as much like showbiz as a tape night," said Harris. "There's a working-without-a-net kind of feeling and you really are putting all your work and all your creativity out there for people to judge. You don't know something works until you get that immediate response, but that immediate response is awesome."

Famed sitcom director James Burrows ("Taxi," "Friends," "Will & Grace"), who worked with Grammer on both "Cheers" and "Frasier," signed on to direct two episodes.

"It's such a comfort because he didn't have to do the show," said Cristalli. "He didn't have to help out. But he read the scripts, he was in the auditioning process, he was pitching jokes and genuinely laughing and enjoying himself. It just made everybody more relaxed because it's a lot of pressure to bring back something this iconic."

Burrows shared his advice to the new actors on "Frasier" (including Jack Cutmore-Scott as Freddy and Anders Keith as David, Frasier's nephew and the son of Niles and Daphne).

"What I tell them is, 'When we rehearse, Kelsey is at 50%. When he's in front of an audience, he's at 100% and you better be on that level otherwise you'll get blown away.' That's what I used to tell guest stars on 'Cheers.' ... 'They're marking time in rehearsal. When they get on a stage and the laughter comes, if you don't play up on their level, you're going to disappear.'"

Cristalli said Grammer slowly morphs into the character.

"In the first rehearsal day, he'll be in like, a T-shirt and shorts and it's like, 'Hold on. That's not. Who's that? That's not Frasier.' The next day he's got, you know, longer pants and the next day it's a blazer. and then all of a sudden it's like, 'Oh, wait a second, I see him now,'" Cristalli said. "There's a very clear distinction between Frasier and Kelsey Grammer, but he slips into those shoes real comfortably and it's very seamless."

For the show's theme, composers and father-son duo Bruce and Jason Miller were brought in to update the original "Tossed Salads & Scrambled Eggs" song. Bruce Miller composed the original "Frasier" theme. Grammer also sings this version.

The composers first did a "hipper" version "that had movement to it, and energy," Bruce Miller said. Grammer listened and suggested the sound reflect how the character is older now, and looking for calmness at this stage in his life. They went back and used a small band, which is the version that viewers will hear.

This "Frasier" also has a bar, but it's not THE bar made famous in "Cheers." Its name, Mahoney's, is a tribute to John Mahoney, who died in 2018. Just as the Martin character was different than his sons, this set captures that juxtaposition. It's conceived as a place where both firefighters and academics gather.

"It's an older bar, something you would find near Cambridge," said set director Glenda Rovello.

"There's a sweet line where Frasier is in Mahoney's and remarks, 'I may have spent too much time in a particular bar,' which I made sure the boys kept because it was a wonderful tribute," Burrows said.

Suspicions linger about paternity of fiance’s ‘niece’

DEAR ABBY: My fiance and I have been together nine years. During that time, we have had our ups and downs. Eight years ago, after a year of dating, we decided to move in together. The following year we got into a big argument because his ex-girlfriend was sticking her nose into our household. (She was also dating his brother.) He moved out that night, but we were able to repair our relationship and decided to live separately for a while.

A month and a half after he moved, I found out she was pregnant. Her due date was nine months from when he moved out. He swears it’s not his child and that it’s his brother’s. I have tried to let it go because I can’t accuse him of lying just because of the timing of her pregnancy.

We were engaged once before, and I called it off because of this. He proposed to me again two years ago, and our wedding date is set for next year. I don’t want to call it off again, although this is still bothering me. He knows I was hurt by an ex-boyfriend who cheated on me in the past, and I think he knows if I find out the truth, I will leave him.

He treats this child like she’s his own, not a niece. He picks her up and takes her out for dinner and to the park and other stuff he doesn’t do for his other nieces or nephews. Should I let it go, or trust my gut?

SECRET OR NOT IN NEW YORK

DEAR SECRET: Tell your fiance you want him to consent to giving a sample of his DNA, as well as his favored niece’s, to be tested. His reaction will speak volumes. If he agrees, you will finally have the answers you are looking for. Do not go ahead with the wedding until you have that information.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Every time my brother or another relative calls or visits, they deliver uninterruptible lectures on subjects we disagree on. There is no real conversation or exchange of ideas. I’ve told them I don’t discuss politics, etc., and interrupted their lecture (which I’ve heard many times before) to say I have to go, but they keep talking.

Once I said I was hanging up, but I’m not sure my brother heard me. He was angry and offended when I did. If I introduce a new topic in the middle of the lecture, they will morph it into something to lecture on within a minute. They never have facts or data behind their “what’s wrong with the world” views. The lectures become tense for both of us, as they try to “sell” their points of view and I become frustrated at the whole process. Any advice?

SISTER WHO’S HEARD IT ALL

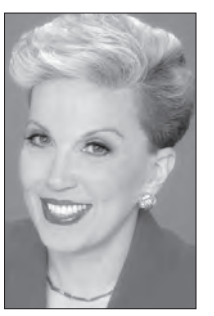
DEAR SISTER: You stated that you have asked these relatives not to discuss topics that make you uncomfortable. Because they can’t resist doing it anyway, screen your calls and talk to them less often. Just because someone phones does not mean you must talk to them, but if you are trapped, tell the person you can talk only for 10 minutes. When that time has elapsed, say goodbye and hang up. If someone is offended by this, remind them that they were warned.

■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby’s most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

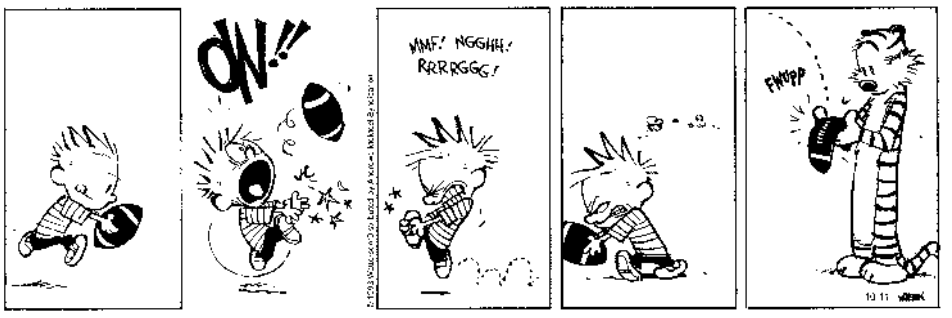


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

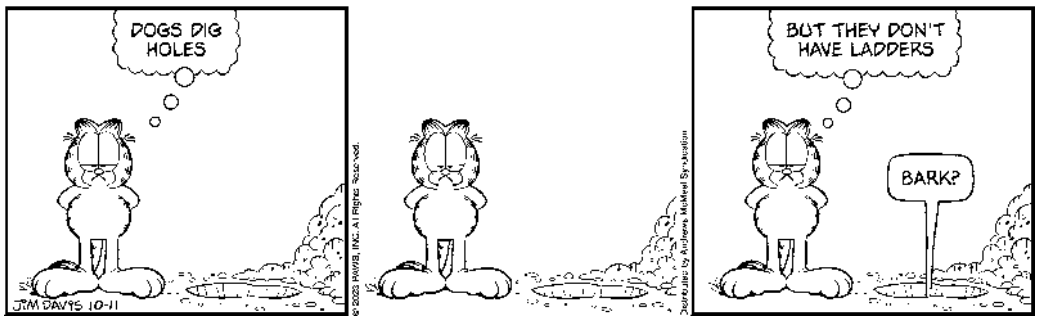
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



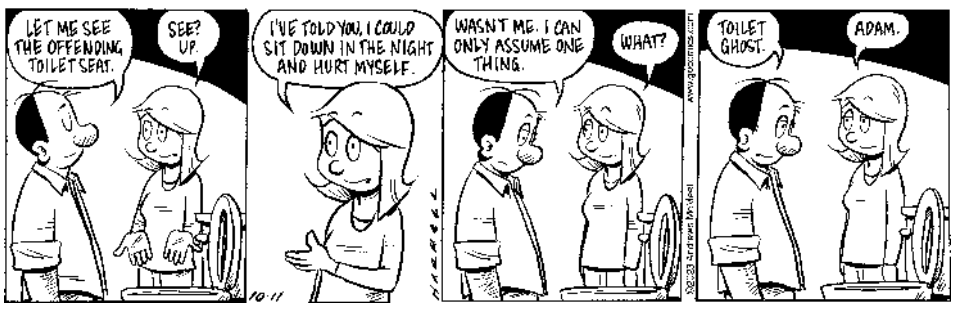
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



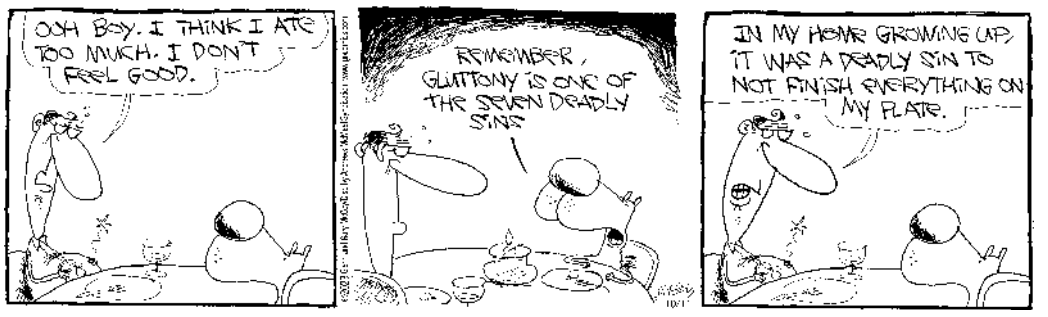
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


LET ME SEE THE OFFENDING TOILET SEAT.
SEE? UP.
I'VE TOLD YOU, I COULD SIT DOWN IN THE NIGHT AND HURT MYSELF.
WASN'T ME. I CAN ONLY ASSUME ONE THING.
WHAT?
TOILET GHOST.
ADAM.
10-11

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


OOH BOY. I THINK I ATE TOO MUCH. I DON'T FEEL GOOD.
REMEMBER, GLUTTONY IS ONE OF THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS
IN MY HOME GROWING UP, IT WAS A DEADLY SIN TO NOT FINISH EVERYTHING ON MY PLATE.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

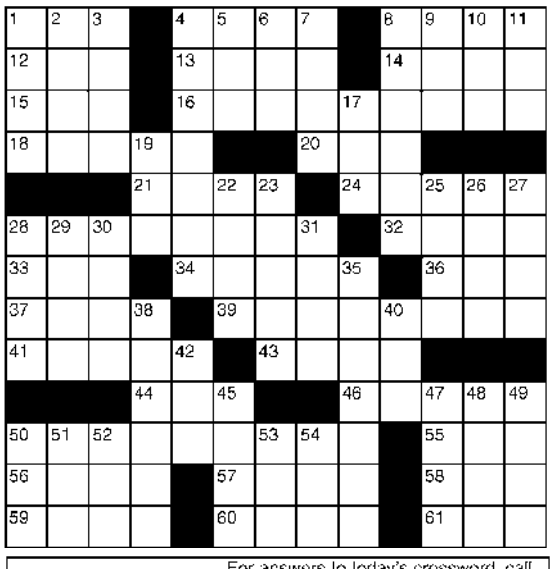
ACROSS
1 Resort
4 Spanish artist
8 June 6, 1944
12 — Royal Highness
13 Saint Laurent of fashion
14 Bit of merchandise
15 Early hrs.
16 Problem-solving exams
18 Persian Gulf nation
20 Scratch (out)
21 Roman censor
24 Follows orders
28 Army dining area
32 Halt
33 Boxing legend
34 Attack
36 Pie — mode
37 Crumbly earth
39 Astronaut in a David Bowie classic
41 Fake name
43 Stance
44 Poetic contraction
46 Dons
50 Marches in place
55 Bit of butter
56 Sheltered
57 Sicilian volcano
58 "Cheap Thrills" singer
59 Early automaker
60 Horn sound
61 N.J. summer hrs.

DOWN
1 Cager O'Neal, for short
2 Fine cotton
3 CEO's aide
4 Avid exercisers
5 Eggs
6 Even so
7 Queens stadium name
8 Nerdy types
9 "— Kapital"
10 Curator's focus
11 Thumbs-up
17 Ring decision
19 Apt. coolers
22 Abound
23 Available
25 Coup d' —
26 Present-day "carpe diem"
27 Pesky email
28 Nursery cry
29 Airline to Tel Aviv
30 iPhone voice
31 Japan's Prime Minister, 1941-44
35 "Easy"
38 Deli pancakes
40 "The Pioneer Woman" Drummond
42 Venus, to Serena
45 Dele undoer
47 Church section
48 Incursion
49 Doc's "Now!"
50 Chinese chairman
51 Entirely
52 Scarlet
53 "Am — blame?"
54 6 on a phone

Solution time: 23 mins.

E	R	I	C		T	E	N	D		M	A	N
L	I	S	A		A	G	E	E		A	B	U
M	A	R	V	E	L	C	U	S		R	I	D
			I	L	K	S		P	A	S	T	E
A	L	M	A	Y			E	A	C	H		
L	I	A	R		C	A	D	I	L	L	A	C
E	R	R		C	O	N	E	R		A	L	A
C	A	M	E	L	R	O	O	N		S	N	O	B
			O	H	A	L				A	N	D	L	S
A	S	S	A	M		D	A	N	A			
C	H	F		M	A	R	G	A	R	I	T	A
N	A	T		A	N	N	E		K	N	I	T
E	D	S		R	E	O	S		S	A	M	E

Yesterday's answer 10-11



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Matt Bomer, 46; Emily Deschanel, 47; Jane Krakowski, 55; Joan Cusack, 61.

Happy Birthday: Look at the big picture and carve a path to help you reach your goal. Put an affordable budget in place and prepare to adjust your lifestyle to fit your dreams, hopes and wishes. Connect with like-minded people and settle into a routine to help you build your desired life. Implement changes that will deter anyone from interfering with your plans. Your numbers are 6, 17, 22, 27, 32, 41, 44.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Assess relationships and determine who is for and against you. It's essential to align yourself with people who get what you are trying to achieve and distance yourself from those likely to sabotage your efforts. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Stay on target, regardless of what others say. A passionate approach will lead to unique ideas that separate you from the crowd. By putting your energy and discipline to good use, you'll outdo anyone who tries to get in your way. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Pay more respect to getting ahead. Set a target and push forward with thoughtfulness, courage, and the literary and educational equipment needed to get you where you want to go. Surprise others with your professionalism, skills and knowledge, and you'll ward off competitive interference. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Be careful. Not everyone is on your side. Determine what you can and should do next. Stick close to home and avoid situations that warrant being in crowds. Choose to pick up additional skills or designate time to pursue something that interests you. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Don't rely on others to do things for you. Take the initiative and make your voice heard. Put a strict budget in place and control your emotions if someone tries to push you in an undesirable direction. Don't argue; pursue your objective. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Stand up for your rights and make whatever changes are necessary to reach your destination. Educational pursuits, travel and being open to change will make you the go-to person. Trust and believe in yourself and shoot for the stars. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* A cordial approach to any situation you encounter will ward off an argument or impossible situation. Search for unique solutions to alleviate friction between you and anyone who considers opposing you. Flexibility will lead to progress. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Take control and use your connections to further your pursuits. Be direct, show the value in what you want to accomplish and target your audience to suit your needs. Timing and positive input are crucial whether you are chasing a personal or professional goal. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Observation is necessary to avoid interference. Someone will go to great lengths to disrupt or steal your plans. Protect your ideas and fight for your rights. Take the route that provides safety and longevity. Let your intellect and experience lead the way. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Don't share information. Concentrate on honing your skills and getting yourself and your finances in line to ensure your success. A change at home must play into your long-term plans if you want to reach your goal and maintain your objective. Lock in your preferences. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Distance yourself from temptation, pie-in-the-sky offers and situations that can cause institutional problems. Spend time ironing out any kinks that can interfere with your progress. Refuse to let others dictate what you must modify; change only what's necessary. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Take a serious approach to life, love and happiness, and induce changes that will pave the way to success. Refuse to argue over inconsequential matters. Offer incentives regarding what's vital to reaching your goal. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are reflective, opportunity-driven and helpful. You are disciplined and assertive.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

9	8	5	4					1
	3	1	9					
	7			1	3		8	5
3					4		1	
		9		3		2	5	
8	2			7				
			1	8	9			
2	1			4				6
					2		7	4

Difficulty: ★★★ 10/11

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

8	6	3	2	5	4	9	1	7
1	5	4	8	7	9	2	3	6
9	2	7	3	1	6	5	4	8
4	8	2	7	9	3	6	5	1
7	3	5	1	6	2	4	8	9
6	9	1	4	8	5	3	7	2
5	1	6	9	4	7	8	2	3
3	4	8	6	2	1	7	9	5
2	7	9	5	3	8	1	6	4

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Difficulty: ★★ 10/10

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

A NICE, JOCUND DAY — Solution: 9 letters

D	P	S	U	N	N	Y	Y	T	R	A	E	H	E	E
L	E	C	O	N	T	E	N	T	K	C	E	H	C	V
U	P	T	Y	R	R	E	M	D	E	A	T	T	L	I
F	P	C	A	R	N	I	V	A	L	I	D	I	H	T
E	Y	P	E	M	D	E	T	A	L	E	V	R	O	I
E	C	F	N	S	I	N	G	B	T	E	K	I	L	S
L	H	I	E	T	U	N	B	R	L	I	R	P	I	O
G	E	E	R	F	E	R	A	C	C	G	E	S	D	P
N	E	S	G	I	I	E	C	H	I	R	P	Y	A	J
I	R	T	Y	G	H	T	I	Z	O	A	L	R	Y	O
H	F	A	H	T	A	P	I	M	R	D	A	F	F	Y
G	U	T	H	E	P	P	U	K	H	D	Y	U	E	O
U	L	G	B	E	P	H	Y	T	E	E	F	L	A	U
A	I	P	R	Y	Y	H	O	P	E	F	U	L	S	S
L	U	F	H	T	R	I	M	J	O	L	L	Y	T	D

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Animated, Blithe, Bright, Carefree, Carnival, Check, Cheerful, Chipper, Chirpy, Content, Daffy, Elated, Energy, Feast, Fiesta, Full, Fun, Gala, Gifts, Gleeful, Happy, Hearty, Holiday, Hopeful, Humor, Jolly, Joyous, Laughing, Lighthearted, Live, Merry, Mirthful, Parade, Party, Peppy, Perk, Playful, Positive, Sparky, Spirit, Sunny, Upbeat, Zippy

Yesterday's Answer: Extinguish

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D-backs jump all over another Dodgers starter, beat LA, 4-2

AP

Arizona Diamondbacks' Lourdes Gurriel Jr. celebrates with teammates in the dugout after his solo home run during the sixth inning in Game 2 of a baseball NL Division Series against the Los Angeles Dodgers, Monday, Oct. 9, 2023, in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Not many people picked the Arizona Diamondbacks to beat Milwaukee in the NL Wild Card Series. Even fewer pegged them to take down the 100-win Los Angeles Dodgers in the Division Series.

Surprise! After a rough ending to the regular season, the upstart youngsters from the desert are sailing through the playoffs.

Lourdes Gurriel Jr. and the Diamondbacks made quick work of another Dodgers starter, beating Los Angeles 4-2 on Monday night behind Zac Gallen for a 2-0 lead in their NLDS.

"Why would we play with anything to lose?" closer Paul Sewald said. "We were the sixth seed. We weren't supposed to win in Milwaukee. No one is going to pick us to beat the Dodgers when we haven't played well against them. We're going out there with a lot of confidence."

The D-backs, who earned the final National League wild card despite losing their last four regular-season games, improved to 4-0 in these playoffs—all on the road against division winners. They were 5-8 against the Dodgers during the regular season, losing the final five meetings.

"These guys are very hungry and they feel like they have a lot to prove," Arizona manager Torey Lovullo said.

They'll try for a stunning sweep of the NL West champions when the best-of-five series shifts to Phoenix for Game 3 on Wednesday.

"It's two games, but our backs are against the wall," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said. "We've got to make some type of adjustments and we have no more margin."

Gallen allowed two runs over 5 1/3 innings for his second win of the postseason. Gurriel laced an RBI single to cap a three-run first, and the Diamondbacks chased rookie starter Bobby Miller in the second.

"I don't think it's any secret we've come in here and struggled," Gallen said. "It was good for us just mentally to come in here and set the tone, have a little faith in ourselves."

The early outburst came two nights after Los Angeles ace Clayton Kershaw was tagged for six runs while getting only one out during Arizona's 11-2 rout in Game 1.

Gurriel added a solo homer in the sixth to make it 4-1. Sewald pitched a perfect ninth for his third save of the postseason, aided by a nice catch from Gurriel in left field.

Gallen retired nine in a row during one stretch in his second career postseason start. The 17-game winner gave up five hits, struck out four and walked two.

Arizona's hitters weren't intimidated by Miller's 100 mph heat in his playoff debut. They loaded the bases with nobody out and got a sacrifice fly from Christian Walker and an RBI groundout from Gabriel Moreno before Gurriel's two-out single made it 3-0.

Kershaw and Miller worked a combined two innings and gave up nine earned runs. Miller allowed four hits, struck out one and walked two in 1 2/3 innings before Roberts had seen enough and went to the bullpen.

"Especially after losing Game 1, you want to go out there and set a tone for your offense and get them in a good mood," Miller said. "Stuff happens. We're not done yet. They've still got to win another game. I know we can do this."

Kershaw and Miller have a combined 40.50 ERA through the first two games—the worst starters' ERA over that span in postseason history, according to ESPN Stats & Info.

The Dodgers have lost five straight postseason games dating to Game 2 of last year's NLDS against San Diego.

Once again, the Dodgers got little production from the top of their lineup. Mookie Betts and Freddie Freeman, two of the team's four 100-RBI players, were a combined 1 for 13 with three walks and a strikeout in the first two games of the series.

"All of us gotta get going," Betts said. "We had a couple opportunities and we didn't cash it in. For me and Freddie, that's kind of our role. We're not doing it, and I take ownership in that. Gotta figure out a way, man. No excuses."

Los Angeles went 2 for 12 with runners in scoring position during the two games and stranded 13 overall.

Despite having the sellout crowd behind him from his first pitch, Miller issued a leadoff walk to Corbin Carroll. Ketel Marte reached on a bunt single and Tommy Pham singled to load the bases.

James Outman crashed into the center-field wall making a leaping catch of Walker's sacrifice fly that scored Carroll for a 1-0 lead. Outman bobbled a catch in the first inning of Game 1 that contributed to Kershaw's six-run inning before the three-time Cy Young Award winner was yanked.

After Pham stole second, Arizona added two more runs on Moreno's RBI groundout to shortstop and Gurriel's sharp single to center.

Miller had two-strike counts on seven hitters and retired only three of them. He needed 32 pitches to get through the first after visits by catcher Will Smith and pitching coach Mark Prior.

J.D. Martinez hit a solo homer in the fourth that pulled the Dodgers to 3-1. They had runners at the corners in the fifth, but with the crowd chanting "Freddie! Freddie!," Freeman took a called third strike to end the inning.

"Couple pitches I missed that will make me not sleep," Freeman said.

The Dodgers chased Gallen with back-to-back singles by Max Muncy and Martinez in the sixth. Andrew Saalfrank, a September callup, walked pinch-hitter Chris Taylor to load the bases.

Pinch-hitter Kiké Hernández bounced the ball over the mound and second baseman Marte made a diving stop as Muncy scored to make it 4-2. Outman struck out and pinch-hitter Kolten Wong grounded out against side-armer Ryan Thompson with the bases loaded to end the inning.

Betts reached on a fielding error by Thompson leading off the seventh, and Freeman came to the plate as the potential tying run. He fouled a ball off the inside of his right leg before hitting into a double play, and Smith ended the inning by taking a called third strike.

"That's what happens when you take a terrible swing. You hurt yourself," Freeman said, laughing.

BRAVES 5, PHILLIES 4

ATLANTA (AP)—Baseball's most potent group of sluggers finally got into the swing of things —maybe just in time to save the season for the Atlanta Braves.

Throw in a game-ending double play for the ages, courtesy of a remarkable catch by Michael Harris II and some astute positioning by Austin Riley, and suddenly this 104-win team has gone from down and out to showing a little postseason swagger.

Travis d'Arnaud and Riley hit two-run homers as the Braves, who were held without a hit into the sixth inning, rallied from a four-run deficit to stun the Philadelphia Phillies 5-4 Monday night, evening the NL Division Series at one win apiece.

"It was really emotional, especially the way we came back," d'Arnaud said. "That was one of my favorite postseason games ever."

D'Arnaud, who started at catcher over slumping Sean Murphy, gave the Braves hope with his shot into the left-field seats in the seventh, cutting Philadelphia's lead to 4-3.

It was Atlanta's first extra-base hit of the series.

Riley provided the second, driving a 3-2 pitch from Jeff Hoffman (0-1) into the Phillies bullpen with two outs in the eighth to put the Braves ahead for the first time in the best-of-five series. Ronald Acuña Jr. scored ahead of Riley after being plunked on the left arm by Hoffman's first pitch coming in from the bullpen.

"I just have faith in those guys," Braves manager Brian Snitker said. "You know what? They give you a hard 27 (outs). ... They're never going to stop fighting in the batter's box."

It ended in equally stunning fashion. With Bryce Harper aboard, Nick Castellanos drove one to deep right-center, only to be robbed on a great leaping catch by Harris slamming into the fence.

"I knew off the bat it was going to be close to the fence," Harris said. "I knew once I went back I wasn't stopping. I was going to do anything I could to get a glove on it. If my body had to go down because of that, I would have done that."

Harper had rounded second base when Harris made the grab. He backtracked desperately, and the throw back to the infield skidded past second baseman Ozzie Albies. But Riley alertly backed up the play and zipped a throw to first that completed the double play.

It was the first postseason game in baseball history to end on a double play involving an outfielder, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

Just like that, the series is all tied up. Game 3 is Wednesday at Philadelphia.

"Every playoff win is exciting," d'Arnaud said. "I think the way it ended was one of the most exciting endings to a game I've ever seen as far as a defensive standpoint. We got Money Mike making a crazy catch on the wall and us doubling up Harper to close it out."

Phillies manager Rob Thomson talked about Harper's baserunning blunder.

"Usually you don't pass the base," Thomson said. "You stay in front of it, make sure it's not caught. But he thought the ball was clearly over his head, didn't think he was going to catch it. And Harris made a heck of a play. Unbelievable."

So did Riley, backing up on a play that he never could've expected to be involved in.

"It ended up just being right spot at the right time," Riley said.

A.J. Minter (1-0) earned the win and Raisel Iglesias claimed his first save of this postseason.

With Zack Wheeler dominating a lineup that led the majors in runs and tied a big league record with 307 homers, the Phillies built a 4-0 lead. J.T. Realmuto hit a two-run homer in the third off Max Fried, sandwiched between Alec Bohm's run-scoring single and Bryson Stott's sacrifice fly.

Wheeler, who was born and raised not far from Truist Park, was one strike away from making it through the sixth without allowing a hit. But he walked Acuña after getting ahead 1-2 in the count, and Albies lined a single to right.

Acuña was holding up at third, but he took off for home when the throw back to the infield ricocheted off Trea Turner's glove for the shortstop's second error of the night.

Wheeler fanned the side in each of the first two innings, with the Braves making contact on just 12 of 26 strikes. Matt Olson was the lone baserunner, reaching when Turner bobbled a routine grounder to shortstop.

Through the first four innings, the home team didn't even get one of the infield—unless you count the Hammer, Brush, Paint Can and Drill racing around the warning track as part of the Home Depot Tool Race.

Finally, on Atlanta's 13th batter of the night, Marcell Ozuna lifted one to center field. It was caught by Johan Rojas, but that seemed like progress the way the Braves were struggling.

Atlanta was shut out 3-0 in Game 1 and started the series with 14 straight scoreless innings—its longest drought of the season—before finally breaking through with an assist from Turner's glove.

Raiders intercept Jordan Love 3 times, hold on to beat Packers

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Linebacker Robert Spillane had just one career interception before Monday night, and cornerback Amik Robertson received just his second start in five games this season.

Both players were critical to the Las Vegas Raiders' 17-13 victory over the Green Bay Packers. Spillane intercepted Green Bay's Jordan Love twice, and Robertson made the game-sealing pick in the end zone to stop a three-game skid.

"One of the best interceptions I've ever seen in my life," Spillane said. "Fifty yards down the field, to be able to contort his body, high point the football and end the game like that, what an outstanding play by a player who's been gnawing at the bit to get on the field."

The Raiders' offense did just enough, with Jimmy Garoppolo completing 22 of 31 passes for 208 yards and a touchdown while throwing his NFL-high seventh interception. Jakobi Meyers caught seven passes for 75 yards and a TD, and former Packer Davante Adams had four catches for 45 yards.

Love was 16 of 30 for 182 yards and the three picks. He has thrown five interceptions in the past two games.

"I've got to be better," Love said. "I've got to take care of the ball."

Both offenses struggled. The Raiders (2-3) gained 279 yards and the Packers (2-3) finished with 285.

"I thought our defense competed hard, enough for us to win the game," Packers coach Matt LaFleur said. "We've got to find a way to score points because I think anytime you hold somebody to 17 points, it's enough to win football games."

AP

Las Vegas Raiders' Amik Robertson intercepts a pass in front of Green Bay Packers' Christian Watson during the second half of an NFL football game Monday, Oct. 9, 2023, in Las Vegas.

Las Vegas ended an eight-game skid against the Packers. The franchise last beat Green Bay in 1987 when it played in Los Angeles.

Robertson secured the victory when he intercepted a pass in the end zone with 44 seconds left.

"I played receiver in high school," Robertson said. "I'm an offensive player playing defense."

The Raiders took a 10-3 lead into halftime thanks to 9-yard touchdown pass from Garoppolo to Meyers. Las Vegas had a chance for an even bigger lead after Spillane's interception in the second quarter gave the Raiders possession at the Green Bay 7, but settled for a short field goal.

That kind of start was nothing new for the Packers, who have scored six first-half points in their past three games. They overcame a 17-0 deficit at the break two weeks ago to beat the New Orleans Saints, and last week outscored the Detroit Lions 17-7 in the second half but still lost by two touchdowns.

And, right on cue, the Packers opened the second half with Rudy Ford's interception of Garoppolo. That led to AJ Dillon's 5-yard touchdown run to tie the game.

Later in the third quarter, Green Bay failed to take advantage of a short field. Love found Christian Watson without a defender within about 10 yards of him. The 77-yard completion—and a horse-collar tackle penalty—put the Packers at the 3. But Green Bay had to settle for a chip-shot field goal to go ahead 13-10.

The lead didn't hold up long. Josh Jacobs' 2-yard touchdown run to open the fourth quarter put Las Vegas back in front.

"A lot of credit for hanging in there and grinding it out," Raiders coach Josh McDaniels said. "It was that kind of game the entire four quarters. Nothing was easy."

Give the edge to younger brother Anders Carlson in the matchup of kicking brothers.

Anders Carlson made both field goals for the Packers, from 37 and 22 yards. He is 7 of 7 on field goals and 10 of 10 on extra points. Two of the rookie's field goals are from at least 50 yards.

Daniel Carlson, one of the league's most reliable kickers, hit from 26 yards, but had a 53-yard attempt partially blocked and a 52-yarder bounce off the right upright. He entered this game having made 24 of 29 career field goals from at least 50 yards.

The Vegas Golden Knights, with the Stanley Cup in tow, lit the Al Davis memorial torch before the game. They drew a loud ovation from the crowd, which chanted "Go Knights Go."

The Knights will raise their championship banner Tuesday night before facing the Seattle Kraken in the season opener.

Green Bay got a boost when CB Jaire Alexander started after missing the previous two games with a back injury. Packers LB Quay Walker (knee) and S Darnell Savage (calf) were injured in the second quarter. The Raiders entered the game thin at cornerback with Nate Hobbs (ankle) and Jakorian Bennett (hamstring) not playing.

Analysis: Bill Belichick seems lost without Tom Brady, Sean Payton off to a disastrous start

By ROB MAADDI
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

Bill Belichick is lost without Tom Brady. Sean Payton is off to a disastrous start in his return to the sideline.

Two of the NFL's most accomplished coaches had another rough Sunday.

The New England Patriots (1-4) followed up the worst loss in Belichick's coaching career with the biggest home shutout in franchise history. Quarterback Mac Jones and the rest of the offense were terrible in a 34-0 loss to the New Orleans Saints.

The Denver Broncos (1-4) didn't have their coach's back in a grudge match against the New York Jets. Russell Wilson's fumble in the final minute was returned for a game-sealing score as the Jets beat the Broncos 31-21, giving offensive coordinator Nathaniel Hackett a satisfying win over Payton.

Between 2011-2015, the Patriots and Broncos faced off three times in the playoffs, including a couple of AFC title games.

Now, both teams seem headed for a battle for a top draft pick.

The Patriots are 26-30, including a playoff loss, since Brady left New England after the 2019 season. Brady went on to win his seventh Super Bowl in Tampa Bay and has retired. Belichick and the Patriots haven't been the same.

Over his coaching career, Belichick is 81-94 in games Brady hasn't started. It's hard to imagine he'd be on the hot seat but the Patriots aren't even competitive anymore. They've been outscored 72-3 over the past two games.

"Obviously, it was a poor performance today here," Belichick said. "So, just plain and simple, we've got to find a way to play and coach better than that. So that's what we are going to do, start all over and get back on a better track than we're on right now."

Jones led the Patriots to a 10-7 record in a promising rookie year but it's been downhill since for the 2021 first-round pick. Bailey Zappe replaced him to finish the last two games, though Belichick didn't say he was making a change at starter.

"Go back to the fundamentals and keep it in the simplest form," said Patriots center David Andrews, who snapped to Brady in two of the Super Bowl victories. "It's tough. We put a lot into it each week, and to go out there and not put your best foot forward on Sunday is tough. We've got to come in and get back to work. That's really all I know to do. We can't lay down, can't quit. It's a long year. We're going to come back in and go back to work."

Hard work might not be good enough for this team. They lack talent and have poor coaching.

The Patriots play at Las Vegas next week and have difficult games against Buffalo and Miami after that. At this point, 2-6 might be optimistic.

The schedule doesn't help the Broncos, either. They face the defending Super Bowl champion Chiefs in two of the next three games, including Thursday night in Kansas City. They also have to play Green Bay and Buffalo over the next four games.

Payton, who led the Saints to one Super Bowl title in 16 years before stepping down after the 2021 season, may wish he stayed retired. Payton left a broadcasting gig to try to rescue the Broncos after Hackett had a dismal season with Wilson in Denver.

In training camp, Payton said Hackett's year "might have been one of the worst coaching jobs in the history of the NFL."

Hackett got the final word.

"I have to do a better job. It starts with me," Payton said after Zach Wilson led Hackett's offense to 407 total yards.

Denver had a chance to win two other close losses in the first two weeks, 17-16 to the Raiders and 35-33 to the Commanders.

"We really should and could be 4-1," Wilson said. "But 'coulda, shoulda, woulda' is not good enough. The good thing about it and the perspective of it all is that, as we continue to go throughout the season, it's a journey. There's still a lot of good things ahead. We really believe that. We showed a lot of energy today. We did a lot of good things. We just can't hurt ourselves. That's the biggest thing. Those three, four games that we've lost, we've hurt ourselves in some form or fashion. The best thing that we can do is continue to learn, continue to get better, stay focused on what's next and that's us going on the road."

Hard to imagine a road trip to Arrowhead will result in anything better.

Damian Lillard says he can help Bucks on defense

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Damian Lillard understands he has a reputation for being an elite offensive player but not a particularly strong defender.

Now that he's on a new team, the seven-time all-NBA selection looks forward to changing that perception.

Lillard began training camp with Milwaukee on Tuesday, a week after the Bucks acquired him from the Portland Trail Blazers to team up with two-time MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo. One of the players the Bucks gave up was Jrue Holiday, a five-time All-Defensive Team selection who landed with the Boston Celtics in a separate trade.

Lillard acknowledges he isn't as good a defender as the guy he's replacing.

"I'm not going to come in here and be Jrue Holiday," Lillard said Monday during the Bucks' media day. "My personal opinion, I think he's the best defender on the perimeter."

AP

Milwaukee Bucks' Giannis Antetokounmpo, Damian Lillard, Brook Lopez, Khris Middleton and head coach Adrian Griffin pose for a picture during the NBA basketball team's media day in Milwaukee Monday, Oct. 2, 2023.

But Lillard believes he can help the Bucks continue to play solid defense.

"At the very least, on that end of the floor, I'm going to compete," he said.

"The people that I play against will tell you, I ain't a pushover, you know what I'm saying?" Lillard continued. "I've also had a lot of responsibility on the offensive end for my entire career. I think playing with the kind of players I'll be playing with here, it will also give me an opportunity to show myself much better on the defensive end of the floor."

The Bucks believe Lillard's extraordinary skills on offense will make up for whatever they might sacrifice on defense.

Lillard ranks 11th in NBA history in career scoring average (25.2 points per game) and sixth in 3-pointers (2,387). Although he played just 29 games due to an abdominal injury in 2021-22 and was limited to 58 games by a calf strain last season, Lillard has continued to perform at an all-NBA level when healthy.

The Bucks are counting on Lillard to help them bounce back from last season's stunning first-round playoff loss to Miami and win a second title in four years.

"I'm not asking him to be anything except Damian Lillard," new Bucks coach Adrian Griffin said. "And that's plenty. He's excelled in pick-and-rolls. He's excelled at making big shots and helping his team win, and we need every bit of him. We don't need him to be anything more or less than what he's done the last 11 years of his career."

Lillard welcomes those expectations.

During his 11 seasons with Portland, Lillard advanced beyond the second round of the playoffs just once, when the Blazers reached the Western Conference finals in 2019. He requested a trade to play for a contender.

"In my career, my life, I've never been part of any situation that (I) was not an underdog," Lillard said. "From my AAU program, I played in my neighborhood AAU program. I went to Weber State. I get drafted to Portland. I've done a lot more overachieving in my career than like living up to what was expected. So I'm excited about that. I think once again, at my age and at this stage of my career, I think it came at the perfect time as I prepare for a situation like this.'"

Lillard says he's thrilled about the opportunity to play alongside Antetokounmpo, even though he had pushed for a trade to Miami. The feeling is mutual.

"I feel like we are just the same people, just different size," Antetokounmpo said. "He plays with a chip on his shoulder. He plays to win. He's built from the same cloth. How can I say it, whenever I saw him, I admired his game. I loved how he plays the game."

Both players understand there's plenty of work to do as Lillard adapts to his new teammates and learns how to play alongside Antetokounmpo. The superstars made that point clear while speaking to each other after the trade.

"It's an attractive thing, me and him playing together, the kind of team that we have," Lillard said. "But the work has to get done. I think that's one thing that we're extremely like-minded about, that I've learned in the last couple of days, is like when it comes to having some success, I'm a person that wants to get in the mud and make sure that I'm doing the things that are going to earn us that right, to have that type of success. And he is, too."

That's only one of many reasons Lillard feels good about his new situation.

Lillard talked this week about how much he appreciated arriving in Milwaukee on Saturday to a welcoming crowd that Bucks officials estimated at 5,000 people. The sunny weather made an equally strong impression.

"Every time I've been to Milwaukee over the course of my career, I just stay in the hotel all the time because it's like snowing or something like that," Lillard said. "Seeing the sun out, being by the water and stuff like that, it almost made me smile a little bit, like, 'Man, it's going to be all right.'"

Life after Haslem begins for Heat as Eastern Conference champions open training camp

BOCA RATON, Fla. (AP)—Perhaps the biggest void for the Miami Heat to fill during their training camp that started Tuesday is replacing a player who averaged 3.9 points and 1.6 rebounds last season and went scoreless in his two playoff appearances.

Sounds easy. It won't be.

For the first time since 2002—1,605 games and three championships ago—the reigning Eastern Conference champion Heat are entering a season without Udonis Haslem on the roster. Last season was his 20th and final before retirement, and the Heat know there's a serious leadership gap without the Miami native in the room anymore.

"An adjustment, for sure, probably more so for me than everybody else in the locker room," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "Teams transition. The guys are used to it, that you have different players. UD's presence was so unique that you can't compare it to any other situation in the league. I've always known him to be in our locker rooms."

It's not like the Heat don't have other leaders: Kevin Love and Kyle Lowry were starters on teams that won NBA championships, and they both have Olympic gold medals as well — as do Heat veterans Bam Adebayo and Jimmy Butler.

AP

Miami Heat head coach Erik Spoelstra removes a mic following an interview during the NBA basketball team's media day, in Miami, Monday, Oct. 2, 2023.

They just no longer have the player who was their biggest leader.

"It's weird," Josh Richardson said Tuesday after the team's first camp practice at Florida Atlantic. "It's very weird. Him not here, barking the whole practice, it's very weird."

Haslem is expected to be around the Heat eventually in some sort of official capacity. He hasn't rejoined the club yet and wasn't there for the first practice since his retirement.

Haslem was the NBA's oldest active player at 43 when he retired. The three-time champion was the third player to spend a two-decade career with one franchise, joining Dallas' Dirk Nowitzki and the Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant.

He also became the oldest player to appear in an NBA Finals game, doing so two days before his 43rd birthday when the Heat played the Nuggets in June.

"I'm pretty sure he'll be in the background sending out text messages, probably be around a lot," Butler said. "He loves the game too much. He loves this organization and the city too much to stay away. And we respect him. We love him and we want him to do that."

LOWRY STATUS

Lowry, entering his 18th NBA season and having spent most of those years as a starter, said Tuesday after practice No. 1 that he's hoping to remain a starter.

"I'll do whatever it takes for my team to win basketball games," Lowry said, "but I expect to be the starting point guard."

Spoelstra said he isn't set yet on a starting five. The 37-year-old Lowry averaged 11.2 points and 5.1 assists last season.

BUTLER UPDATE

After raising eyebrows with, well, a pierced eyebrow—along with a pierced nose, lips and a new hairstyle on Monday—Butler's look was back to his typical self Tuesday, with braided hair for the workout.

BOLAVEN

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according to league commissioner Sonny Ebuen.

According to Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation president James Lee, the Inaugural R&J Wine and Liquor Inter-Gov't/Business League 2023 regular season games yesterday and tomorrow are to be rescheduled.

School sports, according to Education interim commissioner Donna M. Flores on Monday, are postponed until further notice.

The IT&E Interscholastic Boys Middle School Basketball League 2023-2024 regular season game today and Friday, the NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Elementary School Soccer League 2023-2024 playoffs game today and Friday, and the NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Middle School Girls Soccer League 2023-2024 regular season game tomorrow and Friday, will be rescheduled at a later date.

CUKI

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won six medals.

Gabriel Mitchell won bronze in the Gi category and silver in the No Gi category; Jacqueline Iris Quitugua won silver in the who competed in the heavyweight category of the junior 1 division; Tate Manglona won a medal in the heavyweight junior 2 division; Justo Quitugua won bronze in the ultra-heavyweight junior 2 division; and Jordan Camacho also got bronze in the super-heavyweight peewee 2 division.

UNDEFEATED

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score 32 more points and easily took their seventh win of the season.

In other results, Tanapag Middle School silenced Saipan Community School, 29-6; Agape Christian School blew over Saipan International School, 63-26; Mount Carmel School won a close 27-26 game over ChaCha Ocean View Middle School; and Dandan Middle School edged HMS JV, 27-8.

In the varsity standings behind HMS, FMS, and ACS, COVMS are at 5-2; DMS and MCS are 3-3; TMS have a 2-4 record; SIS is at 1-5; and SCS have yet to win with six losses.

Their regular season games today and Friday are postponed due to Typhoon Bolaven.

D-backs jump all over another Dodgers starter, beat LA, 4-2.

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Sports

Damian Lillard says he can help Bucks on defense.

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Bolaven postpones all manner of sports on Saipan

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Ongoing sports leagues in the CNMI are postponed due to Typhoon Bolaven.

The Inaugural SMEC-SMLEG Invitational Basketball Tournament 2023 playoffs, Inaugural R&J Wine and Liquor Inter-Gov't/Business League 2023 regular season, and school sports including the IT&E Interscholastic Boys Middle School Basketball League 2023-2024 regular season, NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Elementary School Soccer League 2023-2024 playoffs, and NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Middle School Girls Soccer League 2023-2024 regular season are postponed until further notice.

The Inaugural SMEC-SMLEG Invitational Basketball Tournament 2023 regular season just wrapped up last Sunday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court. The playoffs will resume at a later date,

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LEIGH GASES

Sports competition this week are postponed due to Typhoon Bolaven's approach to the CNMI.

Undefeated HMS leads IT&E hoops league

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hopwood Middle School Hilitais are at a league-leading 7-0 record after they heavily defeated Mount Carmel School Knights Junior Varsity, 60-8, in the IT&E Interscholastic Boys Middle School Basketball League 2023-2024 last Friday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Hiitais are joined in the undefeated circle by Francisco M. Sablan Middle School and Agape Christian School who are at a record 6-0 each.

It was an unfair matchup as the Hilitais had more experience and play time over the Knights' JV team, but the Knights still managed to score some points. Despite just two points made in the first half by Knights' Donal Tagabuel, they continued to fight until the end.

By the end of the first half, the Hilitais had quickly put up 28 points by way of Joshua Lizama, Steven Tudela, Twayne Kapwich, Evan Cabrera, Jerica Manuel, Leon Galarse, and Jequinn Lizama.

The Knights didn't give up but scored just four more points throughout the game, two by Tagabuel and two from Lyam Villagomez.

The Hilitais went on to

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LEIGH GASES

In this file photo, Hopwood Middle Schoool's Leon Galarse rushes to the paint for an uncontested layup during their game against ChaCha Ocean View Middle School in the IT&E Interscholastic Boys Middle School Basketball League 2023-2024 at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Cuki hopes to bring over 10 kids to Guam jiu-jitsu tourney

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Påtgon (Kids) Jiu-Jitsu Fundraising Tournament that saw 33 martial artists compete at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last Saturday was a successful one

Justis "Cuki" Alvarez, Trench Tech Purebred Saipan Gym's founder and main organizer of the tournament, said based on the money raised, they're hoping to bring more than 10 children to the Påtgon (Kids) Jiu-Jitsu Tournament in Guam on Oct. 21.

"Everybody pulled together—all the family and friends purchased tickets and came and supported. The kids prepped for this event for the last three weeks to a month and put on such a great show. I'm so proud of all the kids—of course all the winners and all the kids that participated," said Alvarez.

He added that "the turnout was over and beyond what I expected", and that this is the first of many youth jiu-jitsu tournaments to come on island.

"This is the kick-start and the first ever kid's only grappling tournament. In the years that Trench Tech's been around, we've only held adult tournaments and surely there's many more kids' tournaments to come."

He said they wanted to give the competitors the real tournament feeling, by "giving that simulation on how it's really going to be like in Guam, so when they do get to Guam, it's not going to be anything new to them," said Alvarez.

The team is planning to leave on Wednesday, Oct. 18.

In the Påtgon (Kids) Jiu-Jitsu Tournament Spring 2023 last April 22 held at the University of Guam, the Trench Tech Purebred Saipan team

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LEIGH GASES

Trench Tech founder Justis "Cuki" Alvarez was a referee in the Påtgon (Kids) Jiu-Jitsu Fundraising Tournament last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Alvarez raises the hand of Absolute weight class bronze medal winner Hudson Igisomar as Sam Pangelinan shows emotion after the loss.